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THE
MEDICAL WORLD:

A JOURNAL OF

Universal Medical Intelligence.

BY

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AND

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VOLUME I.

BOSTON:

DAMRELL & MOORE AND GEORGE COOLIDGE.

1857.



INDEX.—VOLUME I.

Number 1.

The True Physician, - - - - -	1
Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, - - - - -	7
The Influence of Occupation on Mortality, - - - - -	8
Should Strychnia be employed as a Medicine? - - - - -	9
Division of a Nerve for Neuralgia in the Thumb, - - - - -	10
Melanosis affecting both Groins, - - - - -	12
New Instrument for the Analysis of Milk, - - - - -	13
War of the Journals, - - - - -	14
Prosecution of a Medical Reporter, - - - - -	16
Persian Doctors of Physic, - - - - -	17

COMMUNICATIONS.

Clerical Health, - - - - -	18
Gamboge in the Treatment of Chronic Dysarrhœa, - - - - -	21

EDITORIAL.

To the Medical Public; Tenacity of Opinion; Homœopathic Practitioners, - - - - -	23
Death of a Good Physician; Private Asylum for Drunkards, - - - - -	24
Boston Medical College; Drug-ists and Apothecaries, - - - - -	25
A Clergyman's Tone; Boards of Health; Quarantines, - - - - -	26
Summer Diseases; Subscriptions; Anonymous Writers; Books for Editorial Notice; Advertising, - - - - -	27

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Army Meteorological Register, - - - - -	27
Marriages; Deaths of Physicians; Progress of the Medical World, - - - - -	28

Number 2.

Trial of Dr. Wm. Palmer, for Murder, - - - - -	29
Palmer's Head, - - - - -	34
Excision of the Liver, - - - - -	35
Chemistry and Physics, - - - - -	36
Wild Potatoes in New Mexico, - - - - -	37
Observations on the Climates of California, - - - - -	37
Discovery of Palæozoic Fossils in Eastern Massachusetts, - - - - -	38
Taking Strychnia, - - - - -	40
On the Use and Abuse of Chemical Baths, - - - - -	40

COMMUNICATIONS.

Clerical Health, - - - - -	43
Suffolk Medical Society—Monthly Meeting, - - - - -	47

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Moonlight on the Eyes; Forty-nine Years in Bed; Remarkable Family; Swallowing Pins and Needles; Dreams; An Aged Negro, - - - - -	48
United Living Children; Cancer; Inhumanity of a Step-Mother; Longevity of Clergymen; Dyspepsia Bread, - - - - -	49

EDITORIAL.

To the Medical Public; Sanitary Condition of New York, - - - - -	50
Gri die Swindle, - - - - -	51
National Medical Character; Yellow Fever at Portsmouth, Va., in 1855, - - - - -	52
New York Medical College; Ohio State Medical Society, Subscriptions; Advertising; Homœopathic Veterinary Medicine; To Correspondents, - - - - -	53
Salaries of Physicians of Public Institutions; College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Links of the Vegetable and Animal Kingdoms, - - - - -	54
Marriages; Deaths of Physicians; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office for the Week ending Sept. 27, 1856, - - - - -	45

Number 3.

Biographical Sketch of R. D. Mussey, M. D., LL. D., - - - - -	57
Sacral Tumor in a Prematurely Born Child, - - - - -	61
Important Medical Case, - - - - -	62
Tests of Strychnine, - - - - -	62
Pregnancy complicated with Tumor in the Pelvis, - - - - -	63
The True Spinal Marrow the True Sympathetic, - - - - -	65
On Urate of Lime in the Coats of the Veins, in cases of Gouty Concretions, - - - - -	66
Fœtation, - - - - -	67
On a New Mode of reducing Strangulated Hernia, - - - - -	68

COMMUNICATIONS.

Improved Cupping Apparatus, - - - - -	69
---------------------------------------	----

Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	70
Floating Facts, - - - - -	71

EDITORIAL.

To the Medical Public; Medical Eccentricity, - - - - -	77
Professional Envy; Yellow Fever; Copeland's Dictionary of Practical Medicine; Blindness in Brazil, - - - - -	78
To the Deans of Medical Colleges: Beer Drinking; Abortions at the Kingsmill Islands; Mixture of Races in Brazil, A Patient's Opinion of his Case; Popular Beverages; New Hampshire Asylum for the Insane, - - - - -	79
Medical Society of California, - - - - -	80

Unrecognized Forms of Lunacy; Laws of Health, - - - - -	81
Iowa Med. Col.; Klackamus Medicine Men; University of Louisville, Ky., - - - - -	82
Surgical Adjuster; American Dentistry; Massachusetts Medical Society; Progress of the Medical World, - - - - -	83
Subscriptions; Advertising; To Correspondents, - - - - -	84
Marriages; Deaths of Physicians; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office for the Week ending Oct. 4, 1856, - - - - -	84

Number 4.

Biographical Sketch of the late Theodoric Romeyn Beck, M. D., LL. D., - - - - -	85
Inquests and Medical Trials, - - - - -	89
A Loss to Science, - - - - -	93
Treatment of Ulcerated Legs, - - - - -	93
Registrative Laws in Scotland, - - - - -	97

COMMUNICATIONS.

Clerical Health, - - - - -	97
Cases of Homœopathic Treatment, - - - - -	102

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Imperial Cyclopædia of Machinery; Book of Psychology; Physicians' Visiting List for 1857, - - - - -	104
Sterility; Table of Urinary Deposits; A Chart of Incompatibles and Poisons, - - - - -	105
Pronouncing Medical Lexicon; Maspratt's Chemistry, - - - - -	106
Floating Facts, - - - - -	107

EDITORIAL.

Progress of Science, - - - - -	108
Physicians turned Politicians; Melancholy; American Journal of Insanity; Pepperell Institution for the Insane, - - - - -	109
Letter to a Member of the Connecticut Medical Society; Winter Retreat for Invalids, - - - - -	110
Medical Publishing Houses; Medical Controversies, - - - - -	111
Progress of the Medical World, - - - - -	111
Marriages; Deaths of Physicians; Deaths Reported at City Registrar's Office, for the Week ending Oct. 11, 1856, - - - - -	112

Number 5.

Hereditary Influence, Animal and Human, - - - - -	113
---	-----

COMMUNICATIONS.

Cases of Homœopathic Treatment, - - - - -	120
Liquor Zinci Chloridi, - - - - -	124
Floating Facts, - - - - -	126
Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	135

EDITORIAL.

Medical Lectures in New York; New York Medical College; Academy of Medicine, - - - - -	136
Flaying a Flea; Medical Theories, - - - - -	137
Learned Professors; Study of Anatomy; Longevity; Medical Journals, - - - - -	138
Restoring Club Feet; Eclectic Medicine; Medical Literature; Putting on Official Aars; Medical Lectures, - - - - -	139
New Books: Iodine Water; Ingenuity of Quackery; Freezing Parts before Operations; Professional Success; Natural Bone-Setters, - - - - -	140
A National Disease; Scarpa's Acoustic Oil; Hospitals; Wealthy Physicians, - - - - -	141
Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office, for the Week ending October 18, 1856, - - - - -	141

Number 6.

Hereditary Influence, Animal and Human (Concluded), - - - - -	143
---	-----

COMMUNICATIONS.

Thoughts on Fever, - - - - -	152
Clerical Health, - - - - -	155
Breech-Pin of a Gun imbedded in the Face, - - - - -	159
Floating Facts, - - - - -	160
Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	163

EDITORIAL.

Study and Practice of Midwifery; Stupid Lectures; Marsh's Radical Curing Truss, - - - - -	166
History and Statistics of Ovariectomy; Pills; Pathological Anatomy; Epidemics; Commissioners of Insanity, - - - - -	167
Infantile Diseases; Vegetarians; Medical Moroseness; Medical Instruction in England, France and America, compared, - - - - -	168
Medical Biography; Medical Concours, - - - - -	169
Unrestrained Sale of Poisons; New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, - - - - -	170
Marriages; Deaths, - - - - -	170
Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office, for the Week ending October 25, 1856, - - - - -	171

Number 7.

Resources of Nature in Saving Life,	173
Wounds of the Abdomen,	175
Insanity,	177
Extra-Uterine Pregnancy of Four Years' Standing,	180
Pleurisy and Paracentesis,	182
Marriage of Deaf-Mutes in France,	185
Legal Responsibility of Deaf-Mutes,	187
Irascibility of the Deaf and Dumb,	187
Professional Notabilities of Edinburgh,	188

COMMUNICATIONS.

Bite of a Spider,	190
Floating Facts,	190
Progress of the Medical World,	196

EDITORIAL.

Medical Lectures in Boston; Resources of Modern Surgery,	197
Cheerfulness essential to Health,	198
Foundling Hospitals of France; Oil of Mustard in Rheumatism; Prevalence of Small Pox,	199
Professional Eminence; Reviewing New Works: Medical Ethics,	200
Marriages; Deaths; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office for week ending Nov. 4, 1856,	200

Number 8.

Laws of Reproduction,	201
Empiricism encouraged by the Clergy,	207
Medical Officers of Insane Institutions,	209
Emetics and Cathartics,	209
The Loves of the Lions,	210
Menstruation among Hindu Females,	212
Foundling Hospitals in China,	214
Rheumatism,	214
Methods of detecting Strychnia and Brucia,	217

Floating Facts,	219
Plants,	221
Leeches,	221

COMMUNICATIONS.

Iodine Water,	222
Kinesipathy,	222
Neuralgia,	223
Miscellaneous Memoranda,	223

EDITORIAL.

Climatology of the United States; Studying Medicine at Home and Abroad,	226
American Journal of Science and Art; American Journal of Pharmacy,	227
A Statue of Dr. John Collins Warren,	228
Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office for the week ending Nov. 8, 1856,	228

Number 9.

Science of Humanity,	229
Ancient Practice of Medicine,	237
The Connection of Superstition with Diseases and with their Remedies,	241
Cutch India,	243

COMMUNICATIONS.

Pneumonia,	244
Ventilation,	247
Floating Facts,	251
Miscellaneous Memoranda,	252

EDITORIAL.

Success of the Medical World,	253
Vital and Moral Statistics of Prussia,	253
Matrimony Medically Considered,	254
Multiplication of Medical Schools,	254
Medical Biographies,	254
New England Female Medical College,	255
Smith's Operative Surgery,	255

Marriages; Deaths,	256
Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office for the week ending November 15, 1856,	256

Number 10.

Wonderful Cures,	257
Death from Schirrus of the Stomach,	259
Psychological Phenomena,	261
Poisoning by Opium,	262
Influence of Consanguinity on the Offspring,	263

COMMUNICATIONS.

Empiricism encouraged by the Clergy,	264
Clerical Health,	266
Vegetarianism and Dr. Alcott,	272

Floating Facts,	273
Miscellaneous Memoranda,	278

Progress of the Medical World,	279
--------------------------------	-----

EDITORIAL.

Reporting Medical Lectures; Studying our own Diseases,	280
--	-----

Who writes a Medical Book? Distortions of the Spine; Hydrophathy; Cost of securing Health; Deafness,	281
Daring Surgery; Burial of the Dead; Tainted Blood; Vulgar Errors; Female Education; British Hospital at Smyrna,	282
Raising Opium in Alabama; Economical Surgery; Medical Millennium; Filling Teeth; Hilarity; Fyfe's Anatomy; Ophthalmoscope,	283

Marriages; Deaths; Deaths reported at the City Registrar's Office, for the week ending November 22, 1856,	284
---	-----

Number 11.

Vesalius,	285
Spectral Illusions,	291
Condition of Medicine among the Babylonians and Phœnicians,	292
Forms of Lepra observed in the Russian Provinces bordering on the Baltic,	296
Arsenic,	299
African Doctors,	300
Hanover, N. H., Medical School,	301

COMMUNICATIONS.

Monthly Meeting of the Suffolk District Medical Society,	301
Medical Difficulties,	302

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

A Physician's Vocation,	304
Floating Facts,	305

Miscellaneous Memoranda,	308
--------------------------	-----

EDITORIAL.

Spiritual Manifestations; Medical Literature in Pennsylvania; Laying Hands on the Sick,	310
Tall Men; Scald Head; New Method of Extracting Teeth; Theory of the Nerves; Tape Worm Specific,	311
Medical Enterprise,	312

Marriages; Deaths; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office, for the week ending November 29, 1856,	312
---	-----

Number 12.

Vesalius,	313
Deposit of Urea on the Skin and Mucous Membranes in the Typhoid Stage of Cholera,	316
Hypertrophy of the Mammary Glands,	317
American Medical Association,	319
Strangulated Femoral Hernia of the Right Side,	319
Summary of the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia	320
Academy of Medicine—December Meeting, N. Y.,	322
Selections from Favorite Prescriptions of Living American Practitioners,	324

COMMUNICATIONS.

Clerical Health,	327
Focal Fistula, the result of Strangulated Femoral Hernia,	329
Medicine in Austria,	331
Hepatitis,	332

Transfusion of Blood,	333
Extraction of Cataract,	335

Floating Facts,	335
-----------------	-----

Miscellaneous Memoranda,	337
--------------------------	-----

EDITORIAL.

Dr. Wood's Address; Professional Stupidity; Diseases of the Throat,	338
American Pharmaceutical Association; Berkshire Medical Institution,	339
Popular Fallacies; Editorial Changes,	340

Marriages; Deaths; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office, for the week ending December 6, 1856,	340
--	-----

Number 13.

Medicine among the Greeks anterior to the Heroic Ages,	341
A Great Medical Man in Russia,	344
Hallucinations,	346
Antimony,	348
Luxation of the Femur,	349
Medical Schools of Canada West,	350
Alchemy,	352
Canadian College of Physicians and Surgeons,	354

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Motion, — Life,	355
-----------------	-----

COMMUNICATIONS.

Belladonna,	357
-------------	-----

Floating Facts,	357
-----------------	-----

Miscellaneous Memoranda,	360
--------------------------	-----

Progress of the Medical World,	362
--------------------------------	-----

EDITORIAL.

Professional Advertising,	362
Medical School of Michigan,	363
Demand for Nostrums; Pedantic use of Technical Language,	364
Chronic Peritonitis—Extraordinary Case; Medical Monument,	365
Medicine-taking; Drug Inspection; Lunatics in Great Britain; Prices of Medical Books; Coffee Carriers of Brazil,	366
Preventing Mistakes in giving Medicine; Renouard's History of Medicine; Fashionable Medicines; Medical Orthodoxy; Turkish Hospital Preparations; Fanatical Tendencies,	367

Beard or no Beard ; Friction of Mind ; Shaker Preparations of Medicinal Plants, - - - - - 368

Marriages ; Deaths ; Deaths reported at the City Registrar's Office, for the week ending December 20, 1856, - - - - - 368

Number 14.

Count Cagliostro, - - - - - 369
Physiognomy of the Human Form, - - - - - 372
Advancement of Medical Science in Greece during the Heroic Ages, - - - - - 382
London Hospitals, - - - - - 385
Stone in the Bladder—Guy's Hospital, London, - - - - - 387
A Russian Naturalist, - - - - - 389

COMMUNICATIONS.

Cases of Homœopathic Treatment, - - - - - 389
Prof. Jackson on Animal Life, - - - - - 392
Scald Head, - - - - - 393
Scarlet Fever, - - - - - 393
Bibliographical Notices, - - - - - 393

EDITORIAL.

Irregular Regulars ; The Bust of Hahnemann, - - - - - 394
Health vs. Wealth ; Tobacco, - - - - - 395
A New Hospital ; Extreme Medical Conservatism ; Going into the Country ; Inaugural Address of Prof. Gross ; Medical Discoveries, - - - - - 396

Marriages ; Deaths, - - - - - 396

Number 15.

Physiognomy of the Human Form, - - - - - 397
Epidemic Cholera, - - - - - 409

COMMUNICATIONS.

Monthly Meeting of the Suffolk District Medical Society, - - - - - 409
The use of Fat or Oil in Consumption, - - - - - 411
Clerical Health, - - - - - 413
Reduction of Hernial Tumors by the cold Douche, - - - - - 416
High Charges, - - - - - 416

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

The Laws of Health ; A Surgical Inaugural, - - - - - 417
Essays, - - - - - 418

Floating Facts, - - - - - 419

Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - - 421

EDITORIAL.

Medical Pamphlets ; Small Pox, - - - - - 422
Life Insurance ; Medical Abuses ; Oculists ; Closing a Hospital ; Surgeons attached to Hospitals, - - - - - 423
The Warm Bath ; Sunlight in Houses, - - - - - 424

Marriages ; Deaths ; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office for the week ending December 27, 1856, - - - - - 424

Number 16.

Medical Faith, - - - - - 425
Minute Injections of Man and Animals, - - - - - 428
An American Chemist, - - - - - 430
Remarkable Case of Sleep, - - - - - 431
Biographical Sketch of John T. Shotwell, - - - - - 433

COMMUNICATIONS.

Cases of Homœopathic Treatment, - - - - - 435
Clerical Health, - - - - - 438
The Cure of Disease by Movements, - - - - - 439
Belladonna, - - - - - 442
Medical Travels at Home, - - - - - 443

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Laws of Health, - - - - - 444
New Books, - - - - - 445

Floating Facts, - - - - - 445

Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - - 446

EDITORIAL.

Medical Schools and Medical Students, - - - - - 449
Mothers Mould the Man, - - - - - 450
Imposition ; Medical Periodicals ; Homœopathic Dispensary in Boston, - - - - - 451
Spinal Diseases, - - - - - 452

Marriages ; Deaths ; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office for the week ending January 3, 1857, - - - - - 452

Number 17.

Medical Science during the Middle Ages of Grecian History, - - - - - 453
Marine Hospitals, - - - - - 455
Physic and Pharmacy in Italy, - - - - - 458
Character and Management of Insane Transgressors, - - - - - 459
Cancerous Growth of the Kidney, - - - - - 459
Method for Extracting Voluminous Calculi from the Bladder, - - - - - 460

COMMUNICATIONS.

Scarlet Fever under Hydratic Treatment, - - - - - 461
Parisian Hospitals, - - - - - 472
Large Charges, - - - - - 473
Sciatica, - - - - - 473
Prospects for Practice, - - - - - 474

Floating Facts, - - - - - 475

Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - - 477

EDITORIAL.

Studying Medicine ; Scarlet Fever, - - - - - 478
Practical Anatomy in California ; Medical Publishing Houses, - - - - - 479
Criminal Insane ; Consumption of Gold in Dentistry, - - - - - 480

Marriages ; Deaths ; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office for the week ending January 10, 1857, - - - - - 480

Number 18.

The Human Hand, - - - - - 481
Regeneration of Medical Science in Greece, consequent upon the Teachings of Pythagoras, - - - - - 484
Marriage between Relatives, - - - - - 489
Spermatorrhœa, - - - - - 490
Trial for Malpractice, - - - - - 494
Mass of Hair taken from the Cyst of an Ovary, - - - - - 494
Remedy for Rheumatism in Kilanea, - - - - - 495

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Cheapest and most Wholesome Kinds of Food, - - - - - 495
Excoriated or Nursing Sore Nipples, - - - - - 499
Coroner's Inquest, - - - - - 499
Scarlet Fever and Belladonna again, - - - - - 500

Floating Facts, - - - - - 500

Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - - 505

Progress of the Medical World, - - - - - 506

EDITORIAL.

Rise and Decay of Medical Journals ; American Medical Association ; Pulmonary Consumption, - - - - - 507
Effects of Colors on the Mind, - - - - - 508

Marriages ; Deaths ; Deaths reported at the City Registrar's Office for the week ending January 17, 1857, - - - - - 508

Number 19.

Clinical Surgery, - - - - - 509
State and County Medical Societies, - - - - - 514
Ancient Physicians of America, - - - - - 515
Mortality of Chicago for Ten Years, - - - - - 517
Reports of Important Points in Midwifery, - - - - - 517
Medical Prospects in Louisiana, - - - - - 518
Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, - - - - - 519

COMMUNICATIONS.

Cases of Homœopathic Treatment, - - - - - 522
Porrigo Favosa, - - - - - 525

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

Consumption, - - - - - 527

Floating Facts, - - - - - 527

Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - - 531

EDITORIAL.

Spiritual Prescriptions, - - - - - 532
Waking Vision ; Historical Physicians, - - - - - 533
Missionary Physicians ; Hydropathy, - - - - - 534
Medical Inhalation ; Arctic Appetite ; Medical Officers of Hospitals, - - - - - 535
American Institute for Homœopathy, - - - - - 536

Marriages ; Deaths ; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office, for the week ending January 24, 1857, - - - - - 536

Number 20.

Removal of a Uterine Tumor, - - - - - 537
Muscular Atrophy, - - - - - 539
Eguse Oil, - - - - - 541
Patented Curative Apparatus, - - - - - 543
Ovariectomy, - - - - - 544
Fungus Hæmadotes of the Tetis, - - - - - 545
Ancient Medical Recipes, - - - - - 546
Popularizing Science, - - - - - 548

COMMUNICATIONS.

Clerical Health, - - - - - 548
Scientific Testimony, - - - - - 555
Case of a Pencil in the Bladder of a Young Lady, removed per Urethram, - - - - - 556
Suffolk District Medical Society, - - - - - 557

Progress of the Medical World, - - - - - 559

Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - - 560

EDITORIAL.

Progress of Crime, - - - - - 561
A Word with Correspondents, - - - - - 561
Homœopathic Directory, - - - - - 562
John Ayrton Paris, M. D., - - - - - 562
Court-Martialing a Surgeon, - - - - - 563
Medical Charitable Fund, - - - - - 563
Old Practice and New, - - - - - 564
Over-Dosing, - - - - - 564
Soiree Medicale, - - - - - 564

Marriages ; Deaths ; Deaths reported at City Registrar's Office, for the week ending January 31, 1857, - - - - - 564

Number 21.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Children, - - - - - 565
Poison of Partridges, - - - - - 568
Medical Society of the State of New York, - - - - - 572
Homœopathic Medical Society of New Jersey, - - - - - 573

COMMUNICATIONS.		
Ossification of the Pleura, - - - - -	573	
Medical Scribbings, - - - - -	574	
Medicine and Surgery in Baltimore, - - - - -	575	
Floating Facts, - - - - -	575	
Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	580	
EDITORIAL.		
Excess of Female Population, - - - - -	581	
Specialities, - - - - -	582	
Popular Physiology; Bronchotomy on a Horse, - - - - -	583	
White Paper and Weak Eyes; Comparative Anatomy; Error Corrected, - - - - -	584	
Marriages; Deaths, - - - - -	584	
Number 22.		
Preservation of Human Bodies, - - - - -	585	
Deaths of Massachusetts Physicians, - - - - -	587	
Medical Questions, - - - - -	588	
Position in Sleeping, - - - - -	589	
Congenital Deficiency, - - - - -	589	
Abortion without Pain, - - - - -	590	
COMMUNICATIONS.		
Position of the Water Cure Practice, - - - - -	590	
Clerical Health, - - - - -	593	
Imperforate Hymen, - - - - -	595	
Medicine and Surgery in Chicago, - - - - -	597	
Soluble Iodine, - - - - -	598	
Floating Facts, - - - - -	598, 569	
Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	600	
EDITORIAL.		
Progress of Crime, - - - - -	501	
Opium Eating; American Medical Association; General Public Health, - - - - -	602	
Sins of Cities; Elements of Success in Medical Practice; Accessions to the Profession, - - - - -	603	
Living without Sleep; Female Physicians in Boston, - - - - -	604	
Marriages; Deaths; Deaths reported at the City Registrar's Office for the week ending February 14, 1857, - - - - -	604	
Number 23.		
Dr. Andrew Ure, F.R.S., - - - - -	605	
Scientific Testimony, - - - - -	607	
Mental and Moral Qualifications for a Physician, - - - - -	609	
Whooping-Cough, - - - - -	609	
Horrors of Asiatic Cholera, - - - - -	611	
Uterine Hydatids, - - - - -	611	
COMMUNICATIONS.		
Cases of Homœopathic Treatment, - - - - -	614	
Ancient Physicians of Connecticut, - - - - -	618	
Medicine and Surgery in Cincinnati, - - - - -	618	
Floating Facts, - - - - -	619	
Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	622	
EDITORIAL.		
Electricity; Medical Croners, - - - - -	623	
Professional Aurists; Book-making, - - - - -	626	
Marriages, - - - - -	624	
Number 24.		
Influence of Climate upon the Physical Condition, Habits and Manners of the People of the United States, - - - - -	625	
Moral Insanity, - - - - -	628	
Simple Chronic Ulcer of the Stomach in its Medico-Legal Relations, - - - - -	632	
Supra-Renal Capsules, - - - - -	634	
Life of Gerhard, - - - - -	635	
New York Ophthalmic Hospital, - - - - -	638	
Case of foreign body in the Lungs, for Six Years, - - - - -	639	
An Austrian Hospital, - - - - -	640	
Selections from Hippocrates, - - - - -	641	
COMMUNICATIONS.		
Cases of Lead Disease and their Origin, - - - - -	641	
Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	643	
EDITORIAL.		
Sickness and Mortality in the Army of the United States, - - - - -	643	
Healthy and Unhealthy Houses; No Sickness, - - - - -	644	
Deaths reported at the City Registrar's Office, for the Week ending February 28, 1857, - - - - -	644	
Number 25.		
Popular Medical Errors, - - - - -	645	
Massachusetts Medical College, - - - - -	649	
Life of Dr. Kane, - - - - -	650	
COMMUNICATIONS.		
The India Rubber Tampon, - - - - -	651	
Belladonna in Scarlatina, - - - - -	655	
Clerical Health, - - - - -	657	
Floating Facts, - - - - -	660	
Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	661	
EDITORIAL.		
Living Physicians and Dead Lions, - - - - -	662	
Surgical Reports; Progress of Medical Literature; At Home; Mind and Matter, - - - - -	663	
Marriages; Deaths; Deaths reported at the City Registrar's Office, for the week ending March 7, 1857, - - - - -	664	
Number 26.		
The Victoria Military Hospital, - - - - -	665	
Butler Hospital for the Insane, - - - - -	667	
Wound of the Bladder, - - - - -	669	
Medical Graduations, - - - - -	669	
Selections from Hippocrates, - - - - -	670	
COMMUNICATIONS.		
Clerical Health, - - - - -	671	
Economy in our Food, - - - - -	674	
Communication from Buffalo, - - - - -	675	
Medical matters in New Hampshire, - - - - -	676	
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.		
The Laws of Health; Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse, - - - - -	677	
Brain of the Horse; Mind and Matter, - - - - -	678	
Floating Facts, - - - - -	679	
Miscellaneous Memoranda, - - - - -	680	
EDITORIAL.		
Using Tobacco, - - - - -	682	
State Lunatic Hospital, - - - - -	683	
Female Physicians; Remodelled European Medical Works, - - - - -	684	
Marriages; Deaths, - - - - -	684	

8901.
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THE
MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1856.

NUMBER 1.

THE TRUE PHYSICIAN.

BY J. B. BITTINGER.

The following discourse was delivered at the late Commencement of the Western Reserve Medical College, Cleveland, Ohio. The author is a scholar, and a wit, who writes like a divine.

Man has a body, a soul, and sometimes a little property; and being overmuch inclined to do wrong, he needs doctors, clergymen, and lawyers. A physician to have the cure of his body, a priest for the cure of his soul, and a lawyer to cure his estate. Thus sin gives us doctors of medicine, doctors of divinity, and doctors of law. These are the learned professions. Which is the most learned, I cannot tell—but for some reason or other, medical men are all called “doctor,” as soon as graduated, while D. D.’s and LL. D.’s come only with gray hairs and many years, or many friends.

But if sin has made the professions learned, it too has made them old. They came out of the ark with Shem, Ham, and Japhet, and if they did not exist in Eden, it was because

“the fruit

Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste

Brought death into the world, and all our woe,”

brought also “loss of Eden.” They have their origin in man’s necessities, and as man is always, and everywhere, a needy creature, the types of the three professions are found among all nations, and in all ages. We put in this claim for physicians in a special sense, for though the clergyman was as soon needed as the doctor, he was not, judging from modern history, as soon wanted. Medicine, too, is older than law, for I suppose men took sick before they went to law, if not, it was *very* soon after.

Medicine dates back to the morning of life, the shadows of a hoary antiquity gather about its cradle. The annals of history do not reach back of it, but only open the portals of fable, in whose shadowy domain it is supposed to dwell. Æsculapius was grandson of Jupiter,

whose father was Time himself. This is but putting the chronology of medicine into poetry, to show how venerable in years, and how honorable in descent, it is. It is as old as pain. Pain was the first instructor in medicine, and the instinct of self-preservation the first physician. The first man that tied up a sore finger, or hung his wounded arm in a sling, practised medicine. The first mother whose maternal love made her assiduous to relieve her child, laid the foundation of Therapeutics. From these small beginnings which instinct, self-love, or benevolence made, it has grown into the splendid science of modern Medicine, a science which has rendered tributary to itself, the virtue which lies concealed in every other science. It has but one question,—will this remove pain? With this kind interrogatory, it accompanies the chemist into his laboratory, and watches patiently his retorts and crucibles, to see whether a specific will not distil from his alembic. With this inquiry, it goes a-simpling with the botanist, over every hill, by every running stream, and through all dewy fields—if, perchance, in some curiously carved chalice, it may find “a drop of comfort” for the invalid lying at home. With these words, it inquires of the springs, which are attempered of God, in the bowels of the earth, for a draught to drink to its patient’s health. With the same benevolent words, it interrogates the heavens for stellar or other virtues, and knowing that even brutes may be the depositories of healing powers, the physician does not hesitate to ask counsel of the broad-faced lowing kine. Medicine having to do with all “the thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to,” its votaries have been an accredited fraternity in all communities. While Plato considered it a disgrace that a city should have physicians and rulers, he was compelled to admit both into his model republic. The “New Atlantis,” of Bacon, had its dispensatories, and doubtless its doctors too; and even More’s Utopia was not considered perfect without hospitals. As

long as men have souls, they will want ministers; as long as they love money, they must have lawyers; and so long as they have bodies, they will need doctors. Men could do without the former two, if they would, but not without the latter. Those are useful—but this is necessary. It may be that the physician is a necessary evil—but he is a necessity, and as such, I propose to examine his mission. What I have to say on this subject will be contained in the answer to this question,—What is the true idea of a physician? or, what is the physician to do, and what is he to be?

The first duty of the physician is to heal. All suffering presents a crisis for action, the physician is appointed to meet it, and whatever sacrifice of time, knowledge, or skill is demanded, belongs to the minister of health to make. As a member of the sanitary police, he must be always on duty. This vigilance, as will readily be inferred from the constant presence of pain, may suffer no intermission. Our world is at best but a poor one,—a sickly patient, much afflicted, with many ills; some acute, some exceedingly chronic. There are ravages of plague and pestilence devastating some quarter of the globe every year; now falling on London, now smiting Marseilles. When the pestilence thus walks abroad in darkness, and the destruction wastes at noon-day; when a thousand fall by our side, and ten thousand at our right hand—in this high revelry of disease and death, what we want of the physician is that he should *cure*. In this carnival of the grave we feel that the world is indeed sick. But even in healthier times the mementoes of a diseased world are always about us. A more humane civilization has indeed removed our sick from the public streets and the public gaze; but if they do not solicit aid there, they ask it elsewhere. Every city has its infirmaries and asylums, its hospitals and dispensaries,—infirmaries for the eye and the ear; marine, foundling, and lying in hospitals; asylums for the deaf and dumb and the blind, for the insane and idiotic. Under these kind roofs are sheltered, screened, and nursed, those who in a harder age sought relief by the wayside, as in ancient Persia, or in the streets, as in old Thebes and Babylon. But our sick are not all in hospitals. Every house has its sick chamber, and its patient. Every day some one, unfortunate by field or flood, becomes an invalid. Thousands every day are done being sick, and get well; and thousands are done being sick, and die; but the couches from which the sick rise, are hardly made before

“one more unfortunate” seeks them. Thus the infirm circle has no end; or if a link should fall out, it falls into the grave, and its vacant place is filled by another. Not many men make the journey of twenty-four hours without some incommmodity of mind or body. To one looking for sickness, our earth seems a vast lazaret-house full of wards, and the wards full of patients. To seek out the healing potion and bear it to these sufferers, is the physician’s first duty. If he cannot do this, he is not wanted in a sick world. If the secret anodyne or antidote is not in his possession, and he cannot find it, the world has no need of him. He had better take himself away, with all his nostrums. His charlatan presence adds ten degrees to our already burning fever, and only mocks our madness into a yet wilder fury. A mirage in the desert to tantalize the weary traveller, is enough—a sick world cannot endure a mirage of mountebanks. This, then, is what the physician shall say when introduced into a world, in quarantine—“I have studied sickness, I know something of it, and I can do something for it. I can assuage pain in a measure; I can bring back something of bloom to the cheek; something of vigor to the frame; something of elasticity to the step; of buoyancy to the soul; of hope and happiness to the heart.” We say, then, the world is all before you where to choose. If you can do it somewhat of good, you are greatly needed.

To fulfil this first duty—helping those who are *now* sick, the physician needs a great stretch of knowledge. Sickness has outgrown science, and while the physician has sought for remedies, disease has strengthened itself by feeding on its victims, and complicated itself amid varying circumstances of time, place, and temperament. Diagnosis is delicate. It often brings under review the whole domain of pathology. Under the complications of symptoms, the judgement trembles in painful suspense. It requires the nicest discrimination first to weigh symptoms—and then to weigh competing modes of treatment. I do not wonder that Hippocrates penned this sad aphorism,—“Art is long, life is short, opportunity fleeting, experience deceptive, and judgment difficult.” This melancholy strain of “the old man of Cos,” was struck out more than once, at the bedside of a dear patient, when from the reading of “the votive tablets,” and his own observations, he sought the desiderated remedy. Anatomy and Chemistry have sown much light on the path of the physician since then, but in the curious mechanism of man’s frame,

are avenues which the scalpel has never explored; abnormal conditions, which no analysis will ever detect. "The variable composition of man's body hath made it an instrument easy to distemper; and therefore the poets did well to conjoin music and medicine, in Apollo; because the office of medicine is but to tune this curious harp of man's body, and to reduce it to harmony." It requires much skill to tune a violin or piano, but how much more to tune man's body. He that can do this best is the best physician, and comes nearest the true idea of his profession. Therapeutics, then, is the first qualification of the ideal physician.

But people not only get sick, and hurt, but when cured, are ever tending towards sickness. Their nature gravitates towards disease. Man's physical proclivity towards evil is as marked as his moral proclivity. Men lean towards the grave, as uniformly as trees bow towards the East. Even the cradles of our little ones rock that way. Hence *a second duty of the true physician is to keep people out of sickness*, as well as *get them out*; prevention, as well as cure; prophylactics, not less than therapeutics. We will be excused for saying that physicians, like legislators, do more at cure, than at prevention. The proverb says,—"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure;" but such is the preponderance of present over future demands, that all of us would rather spend "a pound" on to-day, than "an ounce" on to-morrow—and doctors are very much like other people; yet I suppose it will not be denied that the same forecast, which ennobles every other duty, will ennoble the office of healing. To look into the future is one of man's prerogatives. Thither God has turned his feet, for this his eyes are before; for this his hopes grow always onward. Let, therefore, the physician take pledges of the future; and while husbanding all present experiences, let him make the years to come his debtor. The more his science purges the after ages, the brighter is his conquest; the more does he fill the ideal of his mission. The warrior's monument, like Tamerlane's, rises in proportion to the number of his slain—it is built of skulls. The height of the physician's is in the inverse ratio—the fewer skulls, the greater glory. But if he who cures from sickness many, is great, he who keeps many from sickness, is greater. I would rather be Pericles than Alexander. While the latter clothed Asia in mourning, the former took comfort on his death-bed, that no citizens of Athens

had ever put on mourning through him. But I would rather be Jenner than either—since he gave man "the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

In fulfilling this part of his mission, the physician acts no more on the defensive; he assumes the aggressive, and carries the war into the enemy's country. He delivers men from the fear of bondage, and increases their joys and efficiency, by exemption from solicitude, as much as by rescue from suffering. He not only has plucked up pain, but keeps the ground of the heart clean for the planting of pleasure. He diffuses that bliss of ignorance which is better than the bliss of knowledge. He encloses the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and warns against touching it, while he points out the tree of life. This page of medical history is the brightest in the volume of its triumphs—such are the pages which will make it the book of life, and happy are they whose names are written in it; and honorable above their brethren are they who constantly seek to increase its pages. Brightest among these shine the names of Jenner and Parmentier, Sanctorius and Tissot, Count Rumford, Guyton-Morveau.

I need hardly say, that to take a degree with such men, to add their honor to one's name, requires patient research, diligent and accurate observation, conscientious devotion, and benevolent purposes; this all will admit; but to have generations rise up and call one blessed, to earn the high title of "the friend of man," is stimulus, and should be reward enough to bend one to the longest day, and the heaviest task. Amid the invisible destroyers of the mine, how much better is Sir Humphrey Davy's safety lamp, than the best therapeutics? Who wishes to be ever so happily cured from the horrors of fire-damp explosion, or the dismemberments of a steamboat explosion?

As we stand upon the firm deck of the steamer ploughing her way through the waters, and proudly throwing aside the waves like a mighty swimmer, we bless the man that put the strong oak between us and the grave; but meditating on the chances of death as we plunge into the fog bank; on the physician, who can resuscitate the drowned, we drop this benediction,—"Thou canst do well;" but upon him who can build the life-boat, this,— "Thou canst do better;" but upon him who shall invent a fog-bell, whose tongue shall speak peace, amid the shadows of death,

guarding us against the danger coming like a demon out of the dark, even this blessing,—“Many have done well, but thou excellest them all.” Again, he who from the murderous melee of a railway collision, collects the quivering fragments, and again binds them together in their former “bundle of life,” does a good thing; but he who shall put a signal on these great sages tearing through the land like howling Abaddons, and prevent the fatal fray to which they are rushing,—this man, we say, does a great deal better. These nobler men that look to the future, are they who prevent, rather than cure. These are they that “make broad their phylacteries,” but unlike the Jewish doctors, incur no curse, but contrariwise a blessing.

If to heal skilfully, you must know all the windings of the labyrinth of disease, and be in league with every secret of pharmacy; to prevent disease you must know its every haunt and covert, to warn unwary feet against approach. One of your profession has said that “most people kill themselves.” Now, it is the duty of physicians to tell men so, and to tell them how they do it. One man does it with powder and ball, another with powders and pills. Cassius had “a lean and hungry look” — because he thought too much. Our streets are full of men shadowy “as that spare Cassius.” These men embalm themselves against the day of their burial. There is much meaning in the expressions, “dead and gone,” “dead and buried.” Men die of lobelia inflata long before they go off with consumption. Many a man who has died of “the milk of Venus,” is buried with disease of the heart, and he whom Venus slew, goes with the next cholera season. How many die of doing nothing; you should tell them that “ennui” is as fatal as corrosive sublimate. The miser looks into his gold bags till he grows sallow. Why not tell him that this rich complexion will be “the death of him?” Tell those hemming, hacking, home-bodies, who for all the fresh air they get, might as well live in a bag like Terence’s miser, that unless they take off the embargo and go for free trade, they will die of home consumption. And that dirty wretch who should honestly sweat every twenty-four hours, 6 lbs. 4 oz. 6 dr., and who shrinks from water as from poison, let him know that his *hydrophobia* will be fatal to him, unless he takes to soap and warm water, and that right speedily. If “cleanliness is next to godliness,” such men would better turn Mohammedan and wash, than remain Christians

and not wash. In a word, you must diffuse a knowledge of the principles of Hygiene: eating and drinking; clothing and bathing; ventilation, working, and recreation. The study of epidemic constitutions belongs here, and that complicated branch of your science, known as medical topography. These, added to pathology and physiology, are some of the things which go to fit the physician for his second great duty — preventing disease.

The history of our race proves that disease has abridged life; suffering has made our days like the patriarch’s, not only evil, but few; therefore, *the third duty of the physician is to prolong our days and perfect our life.* The life loom into which death weaves our days with such rapid and reckless stroke, the physician must set to a more even tenor, that the texture of life may be both better in quality, and more in quantity. The physician of the soul, while curing present maladies and preventing future sins, seeks the perfection of the spirit; so the physician of the body, purging its present ills, and guarding against the future, should seek to lengthen nature’s lease.

Lord Bacon, in commending his “History of Life and Death” to the reader, expresses the hope “that the nobler sort of physicians will advance their thoughts, and not employ their time wholly in the sordidness of cures, neither be honored for necessity only; but that they will become coadjutors and instruments of the divine omnipotence and clemency, in prolonging and renewing the life of man.” What has already been said under the second head will satisfy us that life has its economics. Some men live out only half their days, the other half, being mortgaged to excess, imprudence, and ignorance, are forfeited. By exorbitancy, they “wooed the remorseless sisters to wind down the watch of life, and to break them off before the hour.”

Now, when the physician has mapped out infected districts and put them under quarantine, when he has popularized the principles of Hygiene, and given them time to percolate through incumbent strata of prejudice, and settle into habits and customs of action, then the race will have begun the journey of longer life. This will be the beginning of the discovery of the elixir. Then the ichor of the gods will be once more put into man’s veins, and a new vitality stimulate his forces. This, therefore, is the true idea of the physician — to cure the curable, to prevent the preventable, and to perfect the perfectible. To restore man as near as possible to his physical state in

Paradise; to disinfect him of the breath and smell of pain; to retouch the immortal lineaments of his body, and to place him again on his forfeited pedestal, — this, and nothing less, is the true mission of the true physician.

That this meridian sun should not be beyond the aim of your purpose, will become more evident by studying the accomplishments of past aims. Physicians, you will say, cannot abolish death — no, but they can postpone its coming. They cannot abolish pain — no, but they can soothe it. The physician cannot prevent the sailor from breaking his skull by a fall from the mast-head — no, but he can raise the depressed bone, and make all the sailor's remaining days, days of consciousness. Let not the physician look too much within for doubts, but without for facts. In the hospitals of Paris, where fifty years ago fourteen died in every one hundred admitted, now only eight die, a gain of six to the one hundred; i. e., if Cleveland with her 50,000 had passed through those hospitals in 1805, she would have lost 7000 persons — passing through in 1855, she would lose only 4,000. In 1805, one syphilitic patient died in fifty-six, now one in two hundred and ninety-four. In midwifery practice, one hundred and fifty years ago, one in forty died, now hardly one in two hundred and fifty. The average increase of life in France, from 1776 to 1842, was fifty-two days per annum; i. e., if the same ratio obtains in our city as in France, medical science would have added during the year to our 50,000 citizens, fifty-two days each, making in the aggregate more than 7000 years. Does this not look as if the wheel of life had been turned back, — as if science had wrestled with the angel of death and prevailed?

Another view. From 1476 to 1649, the plague prevailed sixteen times at Marseilles. In 1649 the first Lazaretto was established, and from 1649 to the present time, it has prevailed only once in the city, though frequently in its Lazaretto. Since the one established first at Marseilles, the entire commercial world has been, as it were, inoculated, and the pestilence kept in quarantine. The lightning is not more securely ruled by the iron rod, than is this scourge of God held in check by the secret of the Coptic monks. Who can count up the years gained, and the joys accumulated, and the griefs assuaged in cities and camps, in ships and barracks, prisons and workshops, cottage and country, by ventilation and drainage under medical direction: by the disinfecting agents of Guyton-Morveau, the pure, cheap

food of Parmentier and Rumford, the proper treatment of the insane by Pinel, and the intelligent sympathy of John Howard? But the discovery of Jenner as a preventive of variola, rises like a vision of life in our dying world. It seems like a fiat of the Creator. Annually it turns back the shadow of death ten degrees, on half a million of dials, not to mention that an equal number escape its malignant finger prints. Is not vaccination a spark of that "wisdom, in whose right hand is length of days?"

In private hygiene there have been equally great advances. The experience of thirty years daily weighing is recorded in Sanctorius' "Aphorisms of Static Medicine." Cheney and Cornaro, both invalids from excess, were reinstated by dieting: the former attaining to seventy-two, the latter one hundred years. In his old age the Venetian nobleman tells us very naively, he was able to go through a severe law-suit, of the effects of which his brother died. What a vivid conception this gives us of the advantage which Cornaro's 12 oz. of solids and 14 oz. of fluids daily, as a hygienic proceeding, had over the semi-monthly vomitings which were orthodox in Hippocrates' day.

In our day, we choose our time to have the small-pox, as we do to see any other unwelcome visitor. The surgery of Hippocrates and Celsus makes one faint in the reading, but now, while with anesthetic agents the invalid "lies down to pleasant dreams," the surgeon repairs or takes off an arm or a leg. Still men taunt the profession with the ancient and musty odor of its Latin prescriptions, but the ball and chain of precedents hangs to the leg of all the professions. Cato reduced luxations by incantation—we think we have improved on that, yet crude as are the censor's precepts, we prefer his commentaries to Cæsar's, since any curing is better than any killing. But what if physicians do not always cure? If John Toland had been cured, we should never have known his hypocrisy. Montaigne's epigrams would not have been half so pointed if lithotomy had then been known, and possibly Montaigne's epigrams are worth more to posterity than his health would have been. In anatomy the progress is not less marked than in Hygiene. Two hundred years after Christ, it took a whole book from the pen of Galen, to satisfy the profession, that the arteries were full of blood, instead of air. For more than a thousand years after, no anatomist looked beneath the human skin. It was a sacred covering, protected by the superstition of the people and the bulls of

Popes, and so great was the authority of Galen, and the ignorance of anatomists, that at the beginning of the sixteenth century, Galen was better authority than God, and deviations from Galen were written down as monstrosities. Vesalius, 1543, was the first to array nature against Galen, as Luther had arrayed the Bible against Popes and councils.

A short parallel between theology and medicine, will show the progress of the latter to no disadvantage. Tyndale's translation of the New Testament was made between 1526-37, and Paracelsus lectured on medicine in the vulgar tongue in 1527. Coverdale's Bible appeared in English in 1535, the same year in which Vesalius discovered the semi-lunar valves of the aorta. The first issue of Calvin's Institutes was contemporary with Servetus' denial of the passage of the blood through the septum of the ventricles. Joubert's Medical Errors appeared in French about the time the Bishop's Bible appeared in English; and two years after the Doway and King James version gave free course to the Bible, Harvey's discovery gave free course to the blood. Thus, within the period of one hundred years, the razor yielded a dominion of one thousand years' duration to the scalpel; the bone was taken out of the heart, the septum closed up by Servetus, the locks set to the veins by Columbus, the marriage of the veins and arteries celebrated by Cesalpine, and the life current put in perpetual motion by Harvey, while Malpighi and Faber watched with microscopes its iron wheels, and saw them move along the track of life.

I will only refer to one more fact, in illustration of the advancement of this science. Why do we smile when we read of the six canals up, the six down, the eight transverse, and the fifteen oblique of the ancient anatomy, through which the blood was supposed to run? Because we know better. Why do we make ourselves merry with the "humors" of the Asclepiads and the "spirits" of which ancient medicine was full, and by which Des Cartes, Sylvius, Van Helmont and Borelli were led captive? Because Argentier's scalpel excised the reticular tissue, and set every spirit free. We still speak of "animal spirits," "excellent spirits," "flow of spirits," "heavy spirits," "vapors," and "good and bad humors," &c., but these words, like the Indian names of our rivers and mountains, are only the records and monuments of a former but now lost dominion.

Young ladies and gentlemen of the graduat-

ing class, a few hints from one who speaks not professionally, but as a patient, for his fellow patients, may not be amiss. I will call them prescriptions, and therefore "put them up" in professional Latin—

"Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto."

Let this be your first maxim. Search with a philanthropic interest for healing virtues from every source. The history of your science will tell you that for the temple of the body, help may be expected everywhere. An astronomer first told you that vision was not in the crystalline lens, and who knows what other secrets of your science may lie among the stars? Goethe discovered the "maxillary bone in man, and the vertebral character of the skull," and literature may have some other claims on you. What Harvey proved to the reason, the microscope revealed to the eye. Geometry is your ally, for by its aid Camper raised the soul from the breast, where Aristotle had imprisoned it, and enthroned it upon the brain. You cannot neglect China, for she gave you "*ginseng*," nor Arabia, for to her are due *manna* and *senna*, *cassia* and *juleps*,—all but the mint-juleps, young gentlemen. The discovery of America is an epoch in your art—to her you owe the heroic remedies, *Guaiacum*, *Quinine*, *Ipecacuanha*, and *Lobelia*. Even accident may add a soldier to your ranks, as it once did, when it taught Ambrose Pare that a ligature was better than an "actual cautery." Botanical classification preceded and suggested nosography, and to African monks you owe the whole idea of quarantine. Look around, your patients and friends are every where. From the door which opens our life—to the gates of death, which close it, we may need your aid. We look to you to cure our maladies and to prevent our misfortunes, and though we do not expect by your wisdom and virtue to rival Methuselah, may we not hope, for our comfort and your praise, to sleep beneath the epitaph of the Hebrew law-giver, "Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died, and his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated"?

Another prescription—"Vir probus medendi peritus." The intimate practical connection between probity and success in the physician did not escape even the father of medicine. Rhazes, the eminent Arabian doctor, laid great stress on this point. There is much sound sense in the saying of Plato, that "the soul cures." Confidence is the medicine of the spirit—but confidence is a delicate plant, and takes root in honest soil only. Faith imparts a healing pro-

perty even to bread pills. You will pardon me for saying that your profession has long lain under the imputation of impiety, an imputation which Sir Thomas Browne, one of the ornaments of your science, sought to alleviate by writing his "Religio Medici." Perhaps familiarity with God's highest handiwork may have blunted sensibility and cooled a pious reverence. If familiarity breeds contempt, is it not, however, because the heart has first been debased? And yet what vocation offers so many occasions for gentleness and patience, so many opportunities for sympathy and counsel? You are called to man when all other human aid is unavailing, you are the confidants of the most sacred secrets. To your skill, integrity and virtue we entrust our parents and children, our wives and daughters. What manner of men ought you not to be!—How urbane in your deportment,—how cautious and conscientious in counsel,—how patient of infirmities,—how pure in thought,—how chaste in action.

When *you* are called in, fear makes men dependent; weakness, credulous; death, docile. In our extremity, though a stranger, you become one of the family; the ordinary conventionalities and cautions of society are suspended; our jewels, kept from profane eyes at all other times, are exposed to you, and of dire necessity we make a virtue.

With a mission so delicate, yet so necessary, you will need all the virtues of nature's laboratory, and all the virtues of the casuists. The fabric of the human body is a nobler pile than the cathedral of Cologne—neither are finished, but repair your cranes from year to year, till you can lay the capstone of the second temple of man's body.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

EXTENSIVE ABSORPTION OF THE BONES OF THE HEAD, FOLLOWED, IN ONE OF THEM, BY HERNIA CEREBRI.

BY CÆSAR H. HAWKINS, F. R. C. S., & C.,
President of the Society, and Surgeon to St. George's Hospital.

The first case narrated was one of scrofulous caries, in a young man aged twenty-four, in which, quite contrary to the usual chronic character of that disease, most extensive destruction of the bones and soft parts of the head took place in a very brief period. Within the space of ten weeks from the first sensation of pain over the lower part of the right parietal bone, more than half the cranium became affected on both surfaces, in some parts the bone

being entirely absorbed, having large openings. The entire parietal bone, the right half of the occipital, the squamous and mastoid portions of the temporal bone, and a considerable part of the frontal, with a part of the greater wing of the sphenoid, were thus affected in the short period mentioned.

The second case related was that of a man, aged thirty-six, who was admitted into St. George's Hospital, under the late Mr. Keate, Feb. 2d, 1832, with a pulsating tumor, nearly five inches in diameter, on the upper and posterior part of the right side of the head. It was soft and elastic, with a well-defined boundary; in its centre a round fungus projected, through an opening in the scalp, of the size of a small walnut, in which pulsation was also evident, and the apex of it looked like layers of coagulated blood. On the opposite side of the head was a similar depression, about three inches in circumference, which was soft and elastic, and pulsated strongly, the edges of the bone not being abrupt or well-marked round the aperture; and pulsation could also be felt in another smaller depression near this large one. He had lived freely, had been in tropical climates, had been twice salivated for syphilis, had a tendency to rheumatism, but otherwise enjoyed good health. Two years and a half before his admission, after sleeping on the grass in the sun, he suddenly felt acute pain in the head, which continued some days, and was followed, after some time, by a depression in the situation of the present tumor, of sufficient size to admit the end of the little finger. This depression increased in size during the next six months, and at length the tumor took its place. Eighteen months before his admission, pulsation was first observed in the tumor; at that period the pain and general symptoms were so severe as to lay him up. Poultices were applied, and the tumor was punctured with a lancet, the effect being to let out a little blood simply. The puncture healed, and a month afterwards the same thing was repeated with the like result. Eight weeks previous to his admission, some severe head symptoms occurred, and after being bled from the arm, and having leeches applied to the tumor, it was again punctured, and from that time the present fungus began to protrude. On his admission, some difference of opinion existed as to the seat and nature of the tumor; it was twice ligatured. On the twenty-fifth day after his admission numbness of the extremities and dimness of sight came on, with giddiness and sickness; on the thirty-third day

the left side was more or less paralyzed; on the thirty-ninth, completely so, and the sphincters were relaxed; on the forty-third he was comatose, and died on the forty-seventh. Examination after death showed the anterior part of the calvarium to be much thickened, in some places to the extent of half an inch, the bony tissue being firm and dense, like ivory, the diploe being obliterated; while towards the posterior parts of the head the bones were very thin, and presented large apertures, where, during life, pulsation could be readily felt. The external surface of these bones was rough and mammillated, and the internal more porous than natural. The dura mater adhered completely to the integuments around the opening in the scalp, and the arachnoid and pia mater were also adherent to the inner surface of the former. An opening conducted from the centre of the fungus into a large abscess in the right hemisphere, almost as deep as the lateral ventricle; this abscess had discharged itself during life. It was evident that the disease commenced in the bone, and not in the brain, from the fact that the depressions preceded the protrusion, from the extensive disease of the bones in other parts, and from the fact that below the smaller apertures in which the pulsation of the brain was seen without protrusion, the dura mater and the brain were quite unchanged. The narration of the cases was accompanied with many valuable practical comments upon the rarity of these two affections, their modes of production, and, in the latter case especially, the probable nature of the exciting constitutional cause. The communication was illustrated by many pathological preparations of the parts involved. — *Lan.*

THE INFLUENCE OF OCCUPATION ON MORTALITY.

The attempts hitherto made to determine the influence of professions on health (say the *Times* and *Gazette*,) are greatly reduced in value, in consequence of the inadequate data on which they are based. If Ramazzini and Thackrah could have known the facts of the last Census, the observations resulting from their scientific and benevolent labors would have had the authority of natural law. That Census sheds the light of statistical truth on the relation of professions and occupations to mortality, and brings out truths which no less extensive investigation would enable the most sagacious observer to anticipate.

It will be an incalculable advantage to ob-

tain, by means of the next Census, a scientific deduction as to the effect of each kind of occupation on mortality. As the initial step has been taken, we may expect it will be followed by others, in a path which, if beset with difficulties, cannot be traversed without leading to the most important and beneficial discoveries.

The last Census Report gave the number of persons in each occupation in 1851, and the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Registrar-General shows the numbers in those occupations dying at corresponding ages. In this early attempt to arrive at the ratio of occupation to the rate of mortality, it has been found that a difficulty arises from the want of definition of the various occupations, sufficiently clear and determined — a difficulty which can be overcome by giving more detail to future Census operations. It is, for example, found impossible to distinguish the rate of mortality among the different classes engaged in the manufacture of silk, of cotton, of linen, and of woollen, as great numbers of them are grouped together under the designation of "Weavers." "Miners," whether in lead, iron, copper, or coal mines, fall under one general designation; and "Laborers," in the field, on railways, in quarries, and on the roads, are not distinguished from each other in the registers.

Still, there are certain occupations sufficiently defined to obviate all danger of their being confounded, and whose rate of mortality can now be recorded with certainty. We give these classes at the decennial period, ranging from 45 to 55,* as arranged in a table (XVIII) which shows the advancing rate of mortality in twelve occupations.

1. *Farmers.* — Of the twelve classes under consideration, Farmers are the longest lived, their rate of mortality being not quite 12 in 1000 (11.99). The number of English farmers of all ages in 1851, including 2429 graziers, was 225,747, of whom there were 53,608 between the ages of 45 and 55. In that year, the total number of deaths among farmers of all ages was 6426, very much below the numbers which would have been registered had these individuals been engaged in other pursuits. These facts prove that the pure air, the daily exercise, the substantial fare, and the other aids to health enjoyed by this substantial class, considerably modify the influence of unfavorable weather, bad seasons, open ports,

* The decade from 45 to 55 is the only age to which the Census Returns have been applied in the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Registrar-General. We shall have still more important results when these returns are applied to earlier ages.

peculiar burdens on land, and all the other ruinous things which farmers' friends have been accustomed to depict in such gloomy colors.

2. *Shoemakers* hold the next place to farmers, their rate of mortality between 45 and 55 being 15·03 in 1000. They are followed by —

3. <i>Weavers</i>	15·37 in 1000
4. <i>Grocers</i>	15·79 “
5. <i>Blacksmiths</i>	16·51 “
6. <i>Carpenters</i>	16·67 “
7. <i>Tailors</i>	16·74 “
8. <i>Laborers</i>	17·30 “

As will be seen on inspection, there is among these seven occupations a gradual increase in the rate of mortality, which, considering their great diversity, is quite remarkable. The near approach of these occupations to each other in the scale of mortality, arises from the circumstance that they have peculiar dangers which tend to counterbalance each other. Thus it is to be noticed, that “the tailor is not exposed to the explosions which are fatal to the miner, and the laborer has exercise which is denied to the tailor.”

Ascending this scale of danger we pass to —

9. <i>Miners</i>	20 15 in 1000
10. <i>Bakers</i>	21·21 “
11. <i>Butchers</i>	23·10 “
12. <i>Innkeepers</i>	28·34 “

A great disparity is observable in passing from laborers into the class of miners, telling a tale of dangers, many of which result from criminal neglect. Between laborers and the last four classes in this table there is a most remarkable hiatus. In the classes previously noticed, the difference in no case is more than one in a thousand, and in some instances less. Here the difference begins with three, and mounts up to nine, in a thousand.

The returns show that the highest rates of mortality are found among the butchers (23·10 in 1000), and the class of innkeepers and licensed victuallers (28·34 in 1000).

The extraordinary mortality of butchers is a fact for which we are indebted wholly to the last Census. The “red-injected face” of the butcher has produced a wrong idea as to the healthy nature of his occupation. This idea is now corrected by scientific induction, and proper sanatory means will overcome the evil thus brought to light. To quote the significant remarks in the report conveying this fact, here is an important problem for solution: “On what does the great mortality of the butcher depend? On his diet, into which too much animal food, and too little fruit and vegetables enter? on his drinking to excess? on

his exposure to heat and cold? or, which is probably the most powerful cause, on the elements of decaying matter by which he is surrounded in his slaughter-house and its vicinity?”

If the rate of mortality among innkeepers, licensed victuallers, and beer-shop keepers should be seized with avidity by the advocates of teetotalism, they must not be forbidden its use; at the same time they must be reminded, that “many highly respectable men of this class lead regular lives and are of steady habits; but others, exposed by their business to unusual temptations, live intemperately and enjoy less quiet at night than the rest of the community. They are exposed also to zymotic diseases, by intercourse with large numbers of people.”

Startling and painful as are these disclosures, they cannot be too widely published. They have a practical value among those who deal with the averages of life, for commercial or benevolent purposes; while, to those more specially concerned, they show the necessity, for their own safety, of employing the measures by which unnecessary disease and premature death may be obviated.

SHOULD STRYCHNIA BE EMPLOYED AS A MEDICINE?

That there is and always will be a fashion in physic no one will deny. The number of remedies once deemed indispensable, and that found their way into almost every prescription, that now slumber unasked for on the shelves of the apothecary, fully attest the truth of this observation; and were this fashion confined to the administration of remedies which, whilst they derived their ephemeral reputation from their combination with others of known action and utility, were under no circumstances fitted for the purposes of crime, there would be but little harm in it; but if the administration of such a deadly poison as strychnine rests on no better foundation—if all the effects attributable to it, except its fatal one, are attainable from other and safer agents, it becomes a question whether it should not be erased from the pharmacopœia, and its presence in the shops of the druggists rendered unnecessary. The simple fact of strychnia being a deadly poison, and of rapid fatality, is not, I admit, sufficient reason for this exclusion. Many of the medicines used in the healing art are so; but then the nature of their operation is such, that, if arrested, or guided by the hand of science,

the most beneficial results may be obtained from them ; but in the action of strychnia, this is not the case : there is not one of the effects that it exhibits in its rapid career that can be made thus available.

The peculiar tetanic spasm that it produces, led its discoverer, I believe, to anticipate from it a remedy for paralytic affections. Had this been the case, its retention in the pharmacopoeia might be justified, but I fear that the profession has found this to be a fallacy. That it may, in very minute doses, in combination with other agents, produce some beneficial effects, in the functional derangements of certain organs, may be possible, though I am inclined to doubt it ; but these effects are equally attainable from other medicines, and certainly do afford no excuse for its use. The frightful disclosures that our various courts of justice are daily bringing to light with regard to it—the careless manner in which this deadly poison has passed from hand to hand—the evidence as to its dreadful effects, and the silence as to its utility, all tend to make this a subject worthy of the attention of the profession, if not of the legislature itself. The virtues of such a remedy should be clear indeed, to compensate for the danger attendant on its use.

If, however, it be found impossible to do away with it as a medicine, surely it might be kept in such a state of solution that, whilst it left it a remedy in the hands of the physician, would unfit it for the deadly purposes of crime.—*Lan.*

DIVISION OF A NERVE FOR NEURALGIA IN THE THUMB.

BY J. M. BUZZELL, M. D.

A division of the affected nerve, for Neuralgia, has been practised considerably in former days by surgeons, but lately it seems to have been regarded as a measure of doubtful utility, not promising a permanent cure of the malady, and in some instances it being supposed that the operation produced only a transfer of the difficulty to some other part, and in some instances doubtless neuromatous enlargements, which, formed upon the truncated extremities of the divided nerve, would give serious inconvenience and suffering.

It is well known that Neuralgia may arise from constitutional or local causes ; that is, it may result from general debility of the whole nervous system, or from some mechanical injury of a nerve. Now in my opinion the reason

why the division of the affected nerve has not been generally more successful, is from the fact that there has been no discrimination between those cases which were purely constitutional, and such as result from local injuries. To attempt to cure the Neuralgia arising from constitutional debility, the pain in such a case being only a manifestation of a disease of the whole nervous system, or a sympathetic affection occasioned by disease in some remote part, by a division of the nerve, would be folly in the extreme. But when a nerve has been injured, by a wound, or puncture, or is included in the cicatrix of a wound, so as to produce pain, spasms, &c., the case is very different. The isolation of the disordered nerve, between the affected point and the brain, will not only relieve, but effect a cure, in such cases. That I am correct in my views upon this subject will appear from the cases which I am about to report.

Mrs. B——, of Simington, Me., aged 40 years, in 1844, had a wart upon the palmar side of her right thumb, opposite the centre of the middle phalanges. It was quite large and troublesome, and a cancer doctor told her it was a cancer, and advised its removal by his cancer caustic ! He removed the wart, by making a very large sore, which run a long while, but which finally healed, making a very large eschar, which when complete closely confined the soft parts to the bone. As soon as it was healed, the patient suffered severe paroxysms of pain in the thumb, and which would occasionally pass up the arm to the neck and head. Several times she had spasms, which were, however, only momentary. The thumb and hand became entirely useless, and for five years she suffered pain in her arm, with but slight intervals, in spite of all the treatment which she received at the hands of attending physicians. At the time I was called (1849) the wrist, from the inactivity of the hand, had become distorted, the hand being flexed to its utmost extent upon the forearm. Upon examination of the thumb, I found that the two digital branches of the median nerve, distributed to the inside of the thumb, were implicated in the difficulty, being firmly bound down to the bone, and their function thus interrupted. I made an incision and dissection, bringing those nerves into view, and found them to be very sensitive, so much so, that merely raising them up upon a groove director, would give extreme pain in the arm and side of the face. I accordingly removed a considerable portion of both nerves, and dressed the wound. As soon

as the nerves were divided, the pain ceased, and has never occurred since. I placed the hand upon a splint to bring it back again to its natural position, and the lady was ever after free from pain, recovered her health, and has had the use of her hand as usual.

Division of Nerve for Neuralgia in the Foot.

In 1851 I was called to see a Mrs. P——, of Hollis, Me., aged 22 years, who some two years previous had trod upon a sharp nail, which penetrated the sole of the foot, at the outer side, although it was difficult to ascertain the precise point where it entered at the time I was called. She had, after a short time, subsequent to the injury, experienced at intervals great pain in the foot and leg, which had disabled her, during the paroxysms, from walking, and the foot had become somewhat thickened, and, especially during the paroxysms of pain, very tender. From the fact that there was numbness of the little toe, and the side of the next toe to it also, I inferred that the external plantar nerve was affected or injured by the introduction of the nail. I cut down upon the nerve and its fellow (Internal Plantar) on the inner side of the heel, near where the plantar nerves issue from the Posterior Tibial, and after separating them, divided the external plantar, removing a section of it, and then dressed the wound. The patient was instantly relieved of her pain, and has suffered no inconvenience or pain in the foot since.

Division of a Nerve for Epilepsy.

Mr. V——, a young man aged 20 years, of Windham, Me., applied to me for advice in 1854. At the age of 12 years, his leg was amputated above the knee, for disease of the knee joint. Ever after the healing up of the stump this patient had regular paroxysms of Epilepsy, or sometimes there would be spasms not amounting to fits. His general health appeared to be good. He was corpulent and robust. From the history of the case I was satisfied that the cause of the spasms or fits must be traced to mechanical pressure upon or around the extremity of the nerves of the leg by the cicatrix of the stump. Upon the application of the battery there was a marked difference between the sensibility of the crural and ischiatic nerves, the latter being very sensitive and tender. I divided the ischiatic nerve by cutting down upon it where it passes between the trachanter major and tuberosity of the ischium, which was very tender to the touch, dressed the wound, and gave the patient a tonic and nervine combined for a few days.

A perfect cure of the fits was effected by the operation, and the patient has enjoyed otherwise good health.

Division of a nerve for Chorea and Spasms.

In 1848 I was called to see Miss A——, of Buxton, Me., who at that time had chorea or involuntary motions of the head, neck, and arms. The ordinary treatment for such complaints only had temporary effect. At length the case seemed to change to spasms of the whole system, which would be occasioned by any excitement, even the entrance of a stranger into the house. At the time I was first called I could not ascertain, upon the closest inquiry, that any nerve could have been injured by a wound or blow. But at length it was recollected that the patient, just before the nervous symptoms appeared, had a swelling upon the side of the chin, and that it was lanced, which operation gave great pain, and there was no discharge of matter at the time nor subsequently, the swelling gradually subsiding. Upon examination the cicatrix was discovered, and I became satisfied that one of the cervico facial branches which communicate with the superficialis colli nerve was the nerve implicated. Finding it most accessible just behind the angle of the lower maxillary bone, I cut down upon it and divided it, and although the operation was performed March, 1852, the patient has never had a spasm or other unfavorable symptom, which could be attributable to this disordered nerve.

From the above cases, which were indeed of peculiar interest to me, to the patient, friends, and public at large, I cannot but regard it as good practice, under such circumstances,—viz., where there are such phenomena as the result of mechanical injury of the nerve,—to effect a division of the nerve between the injured point and the brain, believing that in almost every case the operation will effect a cure. At any rate, as no injury can possibly accrue to the patient from the operation, if it be skilfully performed, it is clearly an omission of the surgeon's duty, not to resort to the measure, where the symptoms are plainly traceable to a mechanical injury of the affected nerve. When the case is somewhat obscure, the use of the Galvanic Battery will materially aid in making a diagnosis of the case.—*Med. Ref.*

A Library.—Harvard College now numbers in all its libraries more than 100,000 volumes. Seventy thousand books and 30,000 pamphlets constitute the Public Library in Gore Hall

MELANOSIS AFFECTING BOTH GROINS.

One of the most singular, and at the same time one of the rarest of the heterologous formations is the melanotic, for the first correct account of which we are indebted to that distinguished man, Laennec, in 1806, in the *Bulletin de la Faculte de Medicine de Paris*. It has been carefully studied by many zealous pathologists since his time, both in this country and on the continent of Europe. Its consideration at all times possesses a painful interest in the mind of the surgeon, from its recognized fatality, even after surgical interference, the duration of life on the average being set down at two years. The almost certain recurrence of the disease after removal goes a great way to support the notion that it is essentially malignant—a view further supported by the opinion of most pathologists, who consider melanotic tumors analogous to common cancerous growths, with the pigment superadded. Notwithstanding this prevailing idea, however, a division of melanosis into two kinds has been made, we think with great propriety and good reason, into benign and malignant—a division which is sanctioned by careful histological examination into the morphological elements of the disease. Thus, for example, we will find a tumor possessing the external characters of melanosis, which, on careful examination, turns out to be a simple and innocent structure, with the development of pigmentary matter throughout its tissue; this will be removed, and either no return of the disease takes place, or the patient may remain at least free from a return for a period of many years. Now, this form of melanosis is referred to by many men of great experience, who draw a wide distinction between it and the second form—a point of no small importance in the diagnosis. We have heard Mr. Fergusson remark on the importance of being able to assure our patients in private practice that such a tumor was not malignant, or was malignant, and, according to the correct view taken by the surgeon, we believe a possible assurance can be given as to the return of the disease or not.

On the other hand, the malignant form of melanosis, which very justly may claim the significant name of “black cancer,” is a very different structure altogether. The true elements of cancer are generally or mostly always present, infiltrated with black pigment. The form of cancer most commonly met with in this class, we might say always, is the encepha-

loid, any other variety of cancer constituting the exception. The melanotic matter is infiltrated throughout the entire mass, or is mostly confined to its outer layers, being sparsely deposited in some instances in its interior. Most of the cases recorded in the “Mirror” have been of this form. Leaving out cases in which the disease attacked the eye-ball for a future occasion, when we hope to bring forward an example recently under the care of Mr. France, at Guy’s Hospital, who removed the globe, we may refer to the following:—Recurrence of a Melanotic Tumor (Mr. Fergusson), *THE LANCET*, vol. i. 1851, p. 622; Melanotic Tumor growing from the Heel (Mr. Le Gros Clark), vol. ii. 1852, p. 175; Melanotic Tumors in several parts of the Body (Mr. Fergusson), *ibid.* p. 176; Melanosis of the Groin (Mr. Fergusson), vol. ii. 1855, p. 439; and numerous records of cases not in our “Mirror” will be found throughout the volumes of this journal.

To turn to the case which we have the pleasure of briefly recording to-day. It is one of those in which the disease is multiplied in various parts of the body, affecting the sub-cutaneous glands. We had hoped when witnessing the removal of some portions of the disease, after listening to the valuable remarks of Mr. Hewett, that there might be an absence of malignancy; but the microscope has pointed out the true nature of the malady, and relief is therefore only temporary. Nevertheless, we think most surgeons will admit the propriety, even in the malignant form, of an early and complete removal, which appears to offer the patient a chance of cure, more especially as at first the tumors may be benign, which, if allowed to remain, would degenerate into cancer. We do not believe, under any circumstances, that the mere removal hastens the fatal termination.

George K——, an elderly man, was admitted on the 9th of April. He had been an outpatient six weeks ago, with several large lumps in his groin. There was a large scar on his right flank, from which place, six years ago, he had a tumor removed by Mr. Lawrence. Besides a pretty large tumor in the right groin, a smaller one was present in the opposite groin; they existed in other parts of the body also, as in the left ham, in the posterior part of the same thigh, over the right and left sides of the thorax, in the axilla, &c. Some of these were simply sub-cutaneous, and were freely movable; and their surfaces were discolored, of a bluish-black color. Six months before his ad-

mission, Mr. Lawrence wanted him to enter Bartholomew's Hospital and get these glands in the groin removed, but he would not consent. When an out-patient, a consultation was held between Mr. Hewett and his colleagues, Mr. Caesar Hawkins, Mr. Tatum, Mr. Cutler, and others, and it was deemed prudent not to operate, and to leave the disease alone; the appearance of all these tumors about the body inclined him not to operate. The patient appeared again at the hospital, and stated he could not work at his trade, which was that of a grinder, and required the constant use of his right leg; that he suffered great misery and severe pain in consequence, and would like them removed—at any rate, from the groin. His anxiety was extreme to have the operation performed, so that his life could be spared for eight months or a year, to make some little provision for his family. Under these circumstances, and as these tumors in the course of two weeks had increased considerably in size, Mr. Hewett, in consultation with his colleagues, consented to remove the diseased mass from the groin.

On the 1st of May chloroform was administered, when Mr. Hewett made a long incision over the whole length of the tumor, which was here much discolored, and removed a large mass of affected glands, together with a quantity of loose tissue surrounding them. The tumor included the deep and superficial glands, and was situated immediately over the saphe-nous opening, the sheath of the common femoral vein underneath it being exposed, the tumor having absorbed the cribriform fascia. The dissection was performed with great care, and several small vessels were tied. Two or three small tumors were then removed from the opposite groin. On section, these tumors presented a dark-brownish color, resembling somewhat coagulated blood.

In his remarks on this case, Mr. Hewett observed that he had told the patient of the danger of the operation itself, as was seen when removing the deeper glands when the femoral vessels were exposed; but still the poor man was anxious, notwithstanding, to get rid of them. He requested those present to bear in mind the history of the patient—their removal six years ago,—and he thought the disease must have been of the same character then as now, a brown-ochrish tissue on cutting into it—true melanosis. Sometimes it happens, he observed, that melanosis is not associated with malignant tissue; and if we can find cancer cells in the specimens removed,

although these are not absolutely diagnostic, then are they malignant. There have been some cases published years ago, he said, where the eyeball was removed, and the patient has remained well twenty or thirty years. In such cases the melanosis could not be combined with malignant tissue. If combined with encephaloid disease, then they are fatal. When these tumors are not malignant, it is owing to the infiltration of the black matter into some simple or benign tumor; hence the disease does not return.

May 15th.—Has been going on well since the operation; the wound has almost entirely healed. His general health is excellent, his pulse good, and his appearance is favorable. On microscopic examination, the tumors were found to be encephaloid disease, infiltrated with black matter. True cancer cells were found developed within the melanotic portion, and where this was not present the true encephaloid disease appeared. In other words, the tumors were examples of encephaloid disease infiltrated with this black deposit. A return of the disease, even within a short period, may therefore be expected.

June 5th. — The wounds have perfectly cicatrized, and the patient is on the eve of leaving the hospital. He has complained of severe pain in the head the last three or four days, accompanied by vomiting, which has been relieved by saline medicine, and now he is free from it. — *Lan.*

New Instrument for the Analysis of Milk. — Leconte's galactometer, which determines with tolerable rapidity and exactness the quantity of butter present in milk, consists of a glass tube, two cubic centimetres wide, the lower end of which is closed. The tube is divided into five parts, each containing five cubic centimetres. To the upper end of this tube a second and less broad glass tube is attached, divided into $\frac{1}{20}$ cubic centimetres, having a short and broader tube for use as a funnel fixed to its upper end. Five cubic centimetres of the milk to be tested are poured into the galactometer, and then twenty cubic centimetres of acetic acid. When the funnel end of the tube is closed, and the instrument well shaken, to coagulate the caseine, which afterwards dissolves in the excess of acetic acid, the butter rises to the surface of the fluid in the narrow tube in the form of cream, and by warming the fluid a little, to facilitate the separation of the fat, the quantity of butter may be easily read off at the graduation of the narrow tube.

WAR OF THE JOURNALS.

The quarterly Law Journal, published at Richmond, Virginia, has the decision of Judge Meredith, upon an application for an injunction in a case of interest to proprietors and editors. Read it.

Dr. C. P. Gooch, several years since, established in the city of Richmond a medical journal, under the title of "The Stethoscope; A Monthly Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences." It was sold by him to the Virginia Medical Society, and was conducted by the Society under the editorial management of several gentlemen, among them, Dr. R. A. Lewis, one of the defendants in this cause. The Society, having determined to part with the journal, offered it for sale in the month of April last, through a committee, one of whom was Dr. Wilson, the other defendant. At this sale, Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnivant became the purchasers, at the price of \$1,893.09, and thereby became the proprietors of the journal, acquiring only its subscription list and goodwill—there being none of those material elements connected with the journal which were necessary to its publication. The journal was continued, with Drs. Wilson and Lewis as editors, at an annual salary, which Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnivant stipulated to pay them. At the time of this purchase, there was published in the City of Richmond another medical journal, of which Drs. James B. McCaw, J. F. Peebles, and G. A. Otis were editors and proprietors, entitled "The Virginia Medical and Surgical Journal." The publication of these two periodicals was continued under the management of their respective editors and proprietors until the month of December last, when by an agreement, in writing, entered into by Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnivant on the one part, and Dr. McCaw on the other, the two journals were united, and a new journal, entitled "The Virginia Medical Journal; The Stethoscope and the Virginia Medical and Surgical Journal combined," was published under their joint auspices, with Dr. Otis as co-editor. The first number of this new periodical appeared during the present month—[Jan., 1856.]

About the time this arrangement was entered into, Drs. Wilson and Lewis were discharged by Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnivant, and they started a new journal as editors and proprietors, styled "The Monthly Stethoscope and Medical Reporter;" the first number of which likewise made its appearance during the present month. When the last mentioned journal was issued, Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnivant conceived their

rights infringed by its publication, exhibited their bill for an injunction, charging the defendants with an usurpation of the title of their journal, "The Stethoscope," and claiming the exclusive use of this title; and further charging that the defendants, through the medium of their own journal and by other means, had represented that the plaintiffs had suppressed, discontinued, and abandoned their journal, and that their representations were made with a view to draw off the patronage and goodwill of the plaintiffs' journal and transfer it to that of the defendants; and praying that the defendants be enjoined from publishing and circulating their journal, or any similar work, etc., etc. When the bill was exhibited to me, I desired it to be filed in court, and a rule made upon the defendants, returnable to this day, to show cause why the injunction prayed for should not be granted, with liberty to either party, on proper notice, to take testimony. I was induced to adopt this course, and not act on the bill on an *ex parte* application, but to give the parties an opportunity to be heard upon the merits, out of abundant caution, because of the novelty of the questions involved, and their importance to the parties concerned. The defendants have answered, admitting some and denying other allegations of the bill; and the question now is, — Shall the injunction be awarded?

To decide this question, it will be necessary to consider what principles govern a court of equity in such cases. The jurisdiction of courts of equity over literary property is similar to that exercised over patents for inventions; and arises from an anxiety to give effect to the legal right, and restrain, by means of the short process of an injunction, any violation which might become an injury irremediable by the slow proceedings of the common law. But if the legal right is disputed, the court does not, except in a strong case, interfere in the first instance by injunction, but puts the party to establish his right at law before it confers the equitable remedy—2 Eden on Inj. 320-32. The first question to be determined is, as to the legal right, and if the court doubts about that, it may commit great injustice by interfering until that question has been decided. Unless the case depending upon a legal right be very clear, it is the duty of the court to take care that the right be ascertained before it exercises its jurisdiction by an injunction. Looking to this principle to guide the action of the court, I cannot say there is no doubt as to the plaintiffs' legal title. The circumstance which throws

doubt on their title arises from their own act in changing the name of their journal, and the varied form in which the defendants have used it. The title of the periodical which the plaintiffs purchased and first published, was "The Stethoscope; A Monthly Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences."

They have united their journal with another, dropped the simple name which characterized it, and are publishing the new one with a new title — the title being "The Virginia Medical Journal; The Stethoscope and the Virginia Medical and Surgical Journal combined." It is true the word, "Stethoscope" is retained; but it does not seem to give the new, as it did the old journal, its distinct appellation — to mark its individuality; but to show the combination which has taken place, and the new journal which has sprung from that combination. In Curtis on Copy Right, p. 297, it is laid down, that if a periodical work, that has long worn a particular title, changes it for another, the adoption of the old title by a new periodical, after the lapse of a reasonable time, would ordinarily not be such an interference as the courts of justice should notice. The authority cited for this principle is a decision by the "Cour. Royale," at Paris, in 1834, which sanctioned the publication of a journal under the title of "*Gazette de Santé*," which another journal had previously worn, but which it had for seven months abandoned for the title "*Gazette Medicale de Paris*." It will be observed that this author states that a reasonable time must elapse, and in the case cited seven months had elapsed since the old name had been abandoned or modified. But in such cases, it is a question of intention, and not of time. Time is but a circumstance to show that intention, and where all the circumstances together clearly show an intention on the part of the plaintiffs to abandon the old title, or so combine with another as to lose its distinctive features, and amount to a new title, they waive their right to this title, and authorize its adoption at once by other persons; at least, they throw such a cloud over their legal right to the title as to induce a court to hesitate long before it will exercise its equitable relief.

But have the defendants assumed the title of the plaintiffs' journal so as to impose upon the community and supplant it in the good-will of the public? An inspection of the periodicals filed with the bill will show that the title of the plaintiffs' first journal was "The Stethoscope; A Monthly Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences." The title of their new

journal is "The Virginia Medical Journal; The Stethoscope and the Virginia Medical and Surgical Journal combined." The title of the defendants' journal is "The Monthly Stethoscope and Medical Reporter."

The names of these three journals are clearly distinguishable, and cannot mislead the intelligent patrons of either. It is true, the word Stethoscope is used in each; but the defendants have accompanied it with other words prefixed and added, which give a distinct appellation to their journal, and are sufficient to apprise all persons that they are really different publications. Their different titles and the different matter which must appear in two monthly journals, seem to afford all the information that can be desired by those who choose to give their patronage to one or the other. Nor can the eye be misled. The color and size of the plaintiffs' journal are unlike that of the defendants; and the plaintiffs have embellished their new work with an imposing wood-cut of Esculapius, in striking contrast with the more unpretending cover which envelopes the defendants' journal.

The most that can be said on this point is, that the defendants have simulated the plaintiffs' title. But I can find no case in which the mere simulation by one party of another's title has called forth the interference of the courts. A brief examination of the cases will show how close a simulation is tolerated, and how cautious the courts are in interfering with that free competition in journalism, necessary to the maintenance of free institutions.

Suppose, however, that the defendants had not simulated the plaintiffs' title, but had adopted it literally, and done nothing more, publishing under that title a new work as their own, on the same general branch of science, — would it have justified the court in awarding an injunction? Is the mere usurpation of a title sufficient to call for the interference of a court of equity? The doctrine that the title of a book or periodical is part of the work, capable of being infringed like the body of the publication, and that the infringement is to be redressed as a piracy, has not been expressly affirmed, either in this country or in England. When the friends of an existing newspaper are informed by a rival newspaper that the two papers are not the same, but are distinct establishments, there is no deception; and the detriment which either establishment may suffer from the competition of the other, results from the free option of those who choose to give their support to one establishment in preference to the other. This employment is subject to

all the incidents of a free competition; and when no deception is practised, the award of the public, or those who patronize newspapers, must determine the patronage which each rival press shall receive.

The learned judge cited cases to show that the mere assumption of the plaintiffs' title by a rival, but distinct publication, however well established the plaintiffs' right to that title may be by uninterrupted usage and possession, will not warrant the court in awarding an injunction; but to the usurpation of the title must be superadded some act of fraud or deception, to call into exercise the preventive powers of a court of equity.

The inquiry, then, is, Have the defendants been guilty of fraud? I cannot say that the facts disclosed by the evidence will sustain this imputation. In the editorial accompanying the advertisement published by the defendants in the Richmond Whig, the defendants represent their work as a new journal of which they are the editors and proprietors, and announce that all connection between Messrs. Ritchie & Dunnivant and themselves had ceased; and in the editorial published in their own journal, they speak of it as a "cousin-german of the pioneer journal of Virginia." In their answer they emphatically deny all intention, by the simulation of their title to that of the plaintiffs, of misleading the public; and the plaintiffs, in their bill, speak of the defendants' publication as a rival journal — a rival publication. Nor do they charge that the defendants represented their journal as the journal of the plaintiffs, and thereby sought to impose it upon the patrons of the plaintiffs.

The utmost to which the defendants have gone in this respect is, in representing that the plaintiffs had suppressed, abandoned, and discontinued their old journal. How far this statement is sustained by the fact that the plaintiffs had merged or combined their journal with another, it is not necessary for me to decide. It will be observed, however, that the plaintiffs do not charge the defendants with continuing this misrepresentation, or threatening to continue it. Even if they did, and the fact were so, it could not be remedied by an injunction. But the plaintiffs speak of this misrepresentation as something already done. Now, the remedy by injunction, with a few rare exception, is a preventive remedy. It is resorted to to prevent an apprehended injury, or to arrest a continuing one; but when the injury complained of is past and completed, the party has a complete remedy at law; and a court of

equity will not interfere, but will leave the party to seek his redress by an action for damages. And such is the plaintiffs' redress in this case, if the defendants have published the alleged misrepresentation, and the plaintiffs have been thereby injured.

In the absence, then, of anything really calculated to deceive the intelligent patrons of The Virginia Medical Journal, the decision in the cases cited is authority against this application for an injunction to restrain the defendants from publishing the Monthly Stethoscope and Medical Reporter.

The rule must be discharged.

On application to the Court of Appeals of Virginia the injunction was refused.

PROSECUTION OF A MEDICAL REPORTER.

This is the way a tribunal in France punishes a fraudulent transaction.

On the 12th of January, 1849, Fabre, chief reporter of "The French Lancet, Gazette of the Hospitals, Civil and Military," yielded (*cedé*) to Castelnau, the principal reporting of the said Journal, and De Sourd, proprietor of the said Journal, gave his consent to this cession. In the month of December, 1852, H. De Castelnau, with the object announced by him, of undertaking a new work, and setting forth that he was establishing an organ, in which his authority would be upon a level with his responsibility, attached himself in the capacity of chief reporter to a new journal, upon the same subjects, entitled "The Monitor of the Hospitals."

For the interest of this speculation, H. De Castelnau made use of the list of subscribers of the Gazette of the Hospitals, which were in his hands only in consequence of his functions as principal reporter of the said sheet, and during these months, caused the new journal to be addressed to the subscribers of the Gazette, with the purpose of withdrawing them from the enterprise in which he was engaged as principal reporter, and of attaching them to the enterprise which he was establishing.

At the same time, H. De Castelnau allowed himself to propose to divers booksellers, who were accustomed to publish their advertisements in the Gazette of the Hospitals, to publish 20,000 copies of them, in an extra edition, (*tirage extraordinaire*) and he received them from the booksellers, caused them to be inserted in the specimen of the new sheet which has been published, making them (the booksellers)

believe that he was acting always in the interest of the Gazette of the Hospitals, to which they knew him to be attached.

These acts constitute a fraudulent competition, which ought to be restrained.

They have caused to De Sourd an injury, for which reparation is due to him, and the tribunal possesses the elements necessary for ascertaining it.

Justice (*l'équité*) equally demands that measures should be taken so that blamable proceedings shall not profit, for the future, him who has taken them. For these considerations the court condemns H. De Castelnau, even by his body (*meme par corps*) to pay to De Sourd 500 francs of damages; fixes at one year the duration of his bodily imprisonment; declares that H. De Castelnau shall refrain during six months, commencing at the expiration of a week from the pronouncing of the present judgment, from causing his name to appear either as chief reporter of the Monitor of the Hospitals, or as reporter of any of the articles which shall be therein published; forbids him to address gratuitously the said journal to the subscribers of the Gazette of the Hospitals, under penalty of 100 francs of damages, and by his body (*et par corps*) for every breach; declares that the written sentence of the present judgment shall be inserted in three journals of the capital, at the election of De Sourd, and at the cost of Castelnau; and also condemns H. De Castelnau to the costs of court.

PERSIAN DOCTORS OF PHYSIC.

A volume of travels by J. P. Ferrier, late Adjutant General of the Persian army, — a Frenchman, — opens to us a country and scenes which are altogether marvellous, because so little is known of either. While a kind of prisoner by order of Yar Mahomed, at Herat, everybody went to see the sight — a foreign infidel. In the crowd were the hakims, which means physicians.

“The Sertip’s visit was followed by those of several men of rank; after them came the *Hakim bashee*, doctors who hold a high rank in the society of Herat. Amongst them were Mirza Asker, Mirza Mahommed Hussein, Goolam Kader Khan, and Agha Hussein, the ancient adviser of the Shah Kamran. As in their eyes every European must be a doctor, the conversation never ceased running on the healing art, of which they considered themselves such distinguished professors; each in turn was anxious to give me a high opinion of

his talent, and I was condemned to listen to a long and absurd display of Affghan erudition. They also brought with them some of their drugs, in order that I might give them some notion of the manner in which certain chemical preparations which they had received from British India should be employed, as they were ignorant of their effects. They had, they said, up to that time given these medicines in progressive doses, until they ascertained the cases to which they were applicable. How many of their unfortunate patients had been killed by this system I dare not ask; but Mirza Asker filled up the blank by pulling from his pocket a bottle of the cyanate of mercury, requesting to know what devil of a salt this could be? ‘It has been of no use to me,’ he added, ‘for of one hundred patients that I have given it to only one was cured — all the rest died.’

“Having finished with medicine, alchemy had its turn, for some of these idiots spend all they possess in their search after the philosopher’s stone. They are convinced that the English have found it, and attribute their riches to that discovery. They imagine all European gold coins are at the outset only bits of iron, rubbed with a certain preparation, and then placed in devil’s water from some well or spring, which metamorphoses it into gold. The doctors entreated me to initiate them into the secret; but I could only in a most learned discourse refer them to humanity, civilization, political economy, and the rights of man, assuring them that it was only to these and our principles of order and justice that we owed the riches they envied us. This they would not believe, and from that moment conceived the highest opinion of my diplomatic talents, admiring the cleverness with which I eluded their pressing and repeated inquiries.”

“The Belooches have the most singular ideas of a European that can well be conceived; struck with all they have heard and seen of their power, intelligence, and riches, they think not only that they can make gold, but also that their bodies and everything belonging to or in contact with them contains the precious metal. A few years before the date at which I am writing, Ali Khan received a visit at Sheikh Nassoor from an English doctor of the name of Forbes. He had been warned of the consequences which would assuredly befall him if he ventured within the clutches of this monster, but it was of no use — he was bent upon undertaking the journey, and paid the penalty of his curiosity with his life. Ali

Khan murdered him in his sleep, and hung poor Forbes's body up in front of his own tent, which he ordered to be deluged with water during fifteen days consecutively. 'You will see,' he said to his people, 'that this dog of an infidel will at last be transformed into good ducats.' Finding, however, to his great amazement, that this proceeding did not produce the expected result, he thought he would boil the water with which the corpse had been washed, but with no better effect. It then occurred to him that the doctor, to play him a trick, had before his death made the gold pass from his body into the clothes and books which filled his trunks. Instead of burning these impurities, which had been his original intention, he had them cut and torn up into little bits, and mixed with the mortar destined to plaster his house. He had not yet had occasion to use it, but he informed us, as he related the details of this disgusting tragedy, that when he did, he expected to see his house covered with a layer of the precious metal. Nothing would ever have induced him to forego this belief, and he did not disguise from me that he would have been happy if he could have added my poor corpse to the mortar in question."

COMMUNICATIONS.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER I. BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Ill Health of Students and Clergymen—Necessity of Medical and Hygienic Knowledge in Missionaries—Wonderful Formation of the Human Body—Design Manifested—Beauty of the Human Countenance—The Soul united to the Body—God's Natural and Moral Laws—Violations of them justly punished—Harmony between God's Government of Nature and of Men—A Christian Duty to preserve Health—Value of Health to a Professional Man—Culture of the Mind at the expense of the Body.

For a number of years past there has been such sad havoc among students, and young ministers, and the fathers, that some remarks upon this subject may be useful, as tending to the *preservation* of health. We shall treat it, not as a common, only, but also as a *religious* duty. No man can injure his health, knowingly, without violating that command which says, "Thou shalt not kill." The spirit of this command requires us to do all in our power "to preserve our own lives, and the lives of others." This subject is referred to, in the sacred writings, in such passages as the following: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth;" and Paul,

in one of his letters to his beloved son, Timothy, says, "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities." There was nothing in which the Saviour, himself, manifested his benevolent feeling, and put forth the efforts of his power, in a more conspicuous manner, than in regard to the life and health of mankind. When he sent out his disciples to preach the Gospel, he enjoined upon them this precept, "As ye go, heal the sick." Indeed, this principle, put in practice, has always been of great service in opening a door of usefulness to ministers. *Dr. Parker* has been instrumental in bringing many of the heathen to love the truth, by his medical knowledge and surgical skill. *Dr. Grant*, armed with his cataract needle, found his way where no mere herald of the cross could have had access. Every observant Christian knows, that the surest way to gain religious access to the *minds* of men, both in heathen and nominally Christian lands, is to do good to their *bodies*.

The Psalmist said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." The sacred Scriptures abound with expressions setting forth the wonderful workmanship of the Creator in the organization of our complex being. Job says, "Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews." And again, "There is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding."

In writing upon health, it seems appropriate to speak, in the first place, of man's physical organization, or the human body.

It is not our purpose to speak, at length, either of the anatomy or physiology, of the body, or of the structure, or faculties and functions of the mental powers: but rather, to give a brief sketch of the wonderful combination of elements brought together in our bodies.

That all the organs were designed to discharge peculiar functions, no one can doubt. If there be design in a watch, there is design in the construction of an eye: and if there is design in the construction of an eye, there is design in the construction of every organ in the human body.

Galen, that wonderful man, whose opinions influenced the medical world for thirteen hundred years with unbounded sway, was converted from atheism by the dissection of a human body. Nor shall we deem such an event singular, if we consider, for a moment, how wisely and wonderfully it is made.

Look at the elements wrought into this animal economy; at its structure and functions.

* Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

What variety of parts! How unlike! How singular its structure! How diverse its functions! Here are bones and blood, solids and fluids: here the opaque muscle, and the transparent humour; the brilliant, adorning, vegetating hair; the keenly sensitive nerve; the more than curious digestive apparatus; the breathing lungs and beating heart. How various the organs designed for multifarious uses! In health they discharge all their functions well.

Here, are gathered into one frame, "compacted by that which every joint supplieth," harmonized, and stowed side by side, the most different, contrary, and conflicting elements — oil and water, acid and alkali, solid and fluid, vegetable and animal, iron and oxygen. In this organism, all these, and more, not only tolerate each other, but harmonize and co-operate together for the general good. Each is indispensable to its fellow, and one cannot say to the other, "*I have no need of thee.*" Such are the elements, not heterogeneously commingled, but wisely arranged in this body.

Mr. Blair, speaking of the *beauty* of the human countenance, says: "Nothing can bear comparison with it." But this comeliness is all derived from the *skin*, that delicate covering, so admirably united and made to co-operate with the nerves and mind so as to convey *expression*.

We may add, no tints of the rainbow, Deity's emblem of security to man,—no ethereal blue, or lily white, or pink, or violet,—no diamond, emerald, crystal, topaz, can bear comparison with, or scarcely approximate to it. As the last and crowning act of the Creator's work, man outshines all others.

Can we admire the man himself, and not be led to reverential and adoring views of the Great Architect?

To man's organism is united an indefinable, thinking agent, which moves at pleasure, but in an unknown way, the whole animal machine. This is the crowning excellency, the glory of our frame. This raises man above all other animals, and allies him to spiritual beings of a higher order.

In view of this animal organism, united to this intellectual agent, and both conspiring to form the man, one may be allowed to say,

" 'T was from thy hand, my God, I came,
A work of such a curious frame:
In me thy fearful wonders shine,
And such proclaim thy skill divine.

At last, to show my Maker's name,
God stamped his image on my frame;
And, in some unknown moment, joined
The finished members to the mind."

In speaking of health, it will be necessary to keep in view this great fact, — that man is a *compound* being; of a material body, and an immaterial mind. This, we shall do in these sketches.

"Order is Heaven's first law."

Every thing, and every being in the universe of God act in accordance with laws. Thus, the solar and planetary systems act in accordance with the laws of gravitation; the growth and decay of plants, with the laws of vegetation; and of animals, with the laws of animation.

Doctor Carpenter, in his great work on Physiology, has well said, "The so-called Laws of Nature are nothing else than general expressions of the conditions under which certain assemblages of phenomena occur. In no case can natural phenomena be correctly said to be *governed* by laws; since the laws themselves are nothing else than manifestations of the will of the governing power. But they may be said to take place *according to* certain laws; these laws being framed by man, as expressions and descriptions of the slight glimpses he possesses of the *plan* according to which the Creator sees fit to operate in the natural world. Thus understood, the use of the term law can be in no way supposed to imply that the Deity stands in any other relation to the phenomena of the universe, than as their direct and constantly operating cause."

God has a system, both of natural and moral laws, in accordance with which, he requires man to act. If he violate a moral law of his nature, he is guilty, and exposed to punishment. If he refuse to obey, or to act in accordance with the natural laws of his being, injury, suffering, or death must follow.

It is a natural law that fire shall burn, and, if we disobey this law, and thrust our hand into the fire, it will be burned. The same may be said of any other natural law which we transgress. The legitimate penalty is inflicted.

We may think it cruel, or barbarous, and inveigh against our Maker, or the instrument through which we are made to suffer; but the *Author* of nature does not change his course of procedure, or alter his plan. We surfeit, and he punishes us with headache, fever, or gout. We continue to live in luxury many days, and he ends our life with apoplexy.

All this is but nature, or rather, God, working habitually, and in accordance with his plan, "formed of old, or ever the foundations of the

earth were laid." The very finger of God may be as clearly seen in disease, following imprudence and excess, as is ever the hand of justice in plying the scourge to the culprit's back. Such suffering, in consequence of refusing to live in accordance with God's natural government, is even more conspicuous than would be the suffering of an individual by the hand of human justice; because *this* might be but a single case, standing out in bold relief, — whereas, God's messengers of disease, or suffering, are sure, and always come in accordance with fixed laws.

The machinery of our being, when properly worked, is designed to promote health, and to prolong life, till it wears out by the natural friction inseparable from all creatures and all things. But, if overworked, it is certain to induce disease, decay, and premature death: and, we may add, it was just as much *designed* that this should be the case, as it is certain.

Our complaints and murmurs do not frighten Deity to lay aside his constituted order of things, or to suspend the laws of nature, or to desist from the infliction of bodily pains and penalties, as a consequence of transgression. Nor will the infliction of those ills cease, because we infringe upon nature's laws *ignorantly*. Arsenic will as certainly produce its poisonous effects, if we take it in innocent ignorance of its deleterious qualities, as it will, if swallowed by design, to destroy life: and, in the great laboratory of nature, catarrh, fever, palsy, gout, apoplexy, and other diseases will continue to afflict human beings, whether they ignorantly infringe nature's laws, or knowingly disobey them.

Nature does not step aside for us from her grand movement of order. She acts certainly, and always in harmony with her laws, and no law is more sure than that "man will reap, as he sows." Would we have all our powers of mind and body move on in successful and quiet operation, we must obey.

Where disobedience has not greatly prevailed in the parent, or his ancestors, the infant, ordinarily, comes into being with all the powers of a man, in miniature, for a vigorous mind in a healthy body. But, in order that he may possess both these, on his arrival at manhood, and they have their proper and natural development, he must be placed under the due observance of all the laws designed to give "*sana mens in sano corpore*," — "a sound mind in a healthy body."

It is a Christian duty to use all possible means to establish and preserve health.—

"Thou shalt not kill," is a Divine command, forbidding every thing that has a tendency to shorten life. It is always a wrong wish to desire death "before our time;" and equally a sinful act to do any thing to hasten that event. Our Saviour often did much to restore health and to preserve life; but did nothing to destroy that rich boon of Heaven.

The health of every one is of vast moment to himself. But, there are many reasons why the health of a *professional* man seems to be, and really *is*, more valuable than that of some others. It is no disparagement to any, that the health of *Washington* was of more value than that of one of his contemporaries; the health of Paul, than that of Nero; or the health of such men as Whitefield, and Fuller, and Robert Hall, and Dwight, and Chalmers, more precious than that of many others. The friends of David, when he was about to jeopardize his life, reasoned conclusively, when they said, "Thou art worth ten thousand of us," though the expression is hyperbolic. We often witness an exhibition of this truth in the failure of the health of the *young* student. Learning is comparatively of but little value without health. Who has not seen the young man, the idol of his mother, the hope of his father, and the consolation of a beloved sister, toil on, through the academy, and the college, and sink just at the time, when his course of study was completed? To save *such*, with others, is the object of these remarks. Friends had toiled, affection had long sown with diligence, and the laurel wreath of academic honors had been twined around his brow; but all to no purpose. He fell at the hour of conquest.

The mind was cultivated; every intellectual faculty improved; every mental power fully developed; but the body, the house in which all these powers dwelt, was neglected. Its foundation was undermined, its pillars sapped, and its final fall prematurely hastened, by the very course pursued to rear its superstructure. A knowledge of those laws, and a compliance with them, which the Creator has ordained for the formation of a firm constitution, and the preservation of health, might have enabled him still to have lived to solace friends and bless the world.

To approach still nearer the subject of *clerical*, or *professional Health*: Who has not seen a more finished picture than the above? We mean *religion in the heart*, superadded to all intellectual and moral endowments. He had passed the seminary with honor, and holy

hands had been laid upon him. He had become Heaven's commissioned herald to lost men, and a pastor to "feed the flock of God." He had graced the pulpit, and hundreds of listening, weeping, repenting hearers had hung upon the eloquence of his lips. But the sword was too sharp for the scabbard — the intellect too keen and energetic for the corporeal powers.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

GAMBOGE IN THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DIARRHŒA.

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

Translated from the German, by H. L. H. HOFFENDAHL, M. D.

In preparing these papers for the liberal columns of *The Medical World*, I have two objects in view. First, I wish to acquaint those already familiar with Homœopathic medication, with some of the practical results of this mode of treatment, to be found in the standard German Homœopathic journals of the day. Secondly, I hope to convince those of their error, who persist in the belief that Homœopathy consists solely in the administration of impalpable infinitesimal doses of medicine, and who are ignorant of the fact that for more than twenty-five years, a class of physicians has existed, who, rejecting what was untenable and visionary in the various extravagant theories about high potencies, infinitesimal doses &c., have made the Homœopathic law of cure "*similia similibus curantur*," the sole basis of their system of therapeutics. The existence of this law of *similarity* has been admitted by others besides the Homœopaths. M. Trousseau only gave another name to the same thing, when he enunciated his law of *substitution*, and quite recently, in an article in the *Moniteur des Hopitaux*, M. Sinbert Goubeyre proposed what he called the law of *electivity*. Different as are these terms, their principle still remains the same. This principle demands for its practical application that the action of drugs on the healthy organism should first be thoroughly understood, before they are applied in the diseased state; and to carry out this principle in all its relations is the great aim of Homœopathy at the present time. Of late years the complaint has been heard from many quarters that the medical profession is as yet lamentably deficient in the knowledge of the physiological action of drugs, and that without this knowledge, a certain and reliable system of therapeutics is impossible. Now a system whose first object it is to supply our

wants in this direction, surely deserves the earnest and unprejudiced attention, if not the cordial support, of every physician who has the true interests of his profession at heart. I am convinced that much of the misapprehension of Homœopathy, so common among medical men, is owing, not to blind prejudice, but to ignorance of its real tendencies and its practical results. If, by the reports of cases which will occasionally be communicated to this journal, I shall be able to create a better appreciation of this system of therapeutics, I shall be fully rewarded by the consciousness that my humble efforts to aid in the progress of medical science and the cause of truth, have not been unsuccessful.

BY DR. HILBERGER, OF TRIESTE.

[From the *Zeitschrift für Homœopathische Klinik*.]

Protracted and obstinate diarrhœas are more or less common in all countries, and form a class of diseases that are the source of much trouble to the physician. But they occur most frequently on sea-coasts, where the changes of temperature are frequent and sudden.

On our coast the unequal warmth of currents of air coming from the North and South, often causes a sudden change in the temperature of six to eighteen degrees Reaum., and this is a sufficient cause for the production and maintenance of colics and diarrhœas.

Added to this is the circumstance that here, as in all Southern countries, the immoderate use of vegetables and fruit of all kinds is so common, that we may safely assume the quantity of these substances consumed to be far greater than the whole amount of the animal and vegetable farinaceous articles of food. If we further consider the senseless habit among the people of using purgatives for the least indisposition, and thus keeping the intestinal canal in a continual state of morbid irritation, then it will not appear remarkable that obstinate diarrhœas here so often call for the attention of the physician.

In the beginning this disease appears unimportant, and gives but little trouble to the patient, but after a longer duration it leads to thickening of the mucous membrane, to swelling of the glands, and finally to ulceration or corrosion. In these changes we find the cause of the frequent variations in the appearance of the discharges, which are sometimes tinged with blood, sometimes slimy, sometimes of a chocolate color, corresponding with the changes in the mucous membrane of the intestines.

The continual state of irritation in which the nerves and muscles of the intestines are kept, produces in them a hyperæsthesia, which announce itself in the form of colic, tenesmus, &c.; and these are the states which the older physicians specified under the name of *diarrhœa dysenteroides*, although the two processes are entirely different.

On further continuance of the disease, or in an originally atonic state of the tissues, the power of digestion becomes weakened, and that state sets in which is commonly designated as lientery. The disease also exercises a reflex action on the mind; the patient becomes irritable, fretful and tired of life.

The foregoing description gives some idea of the importance of this disease. As regards its treatment, experience has taught me that allopathy is here powerless, with all its apparatus of astringents and roborantia.

The Homœopathic treatment is more successful, although the remedies which have been generally recommended in this disease, sometimes prove unreliable. I have therefore been induced to call attention to the use of *Gamboge*, having had many opportunities of observing the surprising effect of this drug, even in cases where such remedies as *phosphorus*, *veratrum*, *corr. sublimate*, &c., were quite ineffective. (It is worthy of remark that in the diarrhœas of scrofulous subjects, especially of scrofulous children, *calcarea* is still more efficacious.) The proving of *Gamboge* is still very imperfect, but its decided drastic properties give us sufficient indication for its use. The effect of this remedy is most certain when the form of chronic diarrhœa under treatment is evidently of catarrhal origin.

The following cases I have selected among many others as examples of cures:

Col. H. H., of the Austrian army, forty-six years of age, possessing a healthy and strong constitution, had been affected with diarrhœa for six months. The patient had generally enjoyed good health, having only been troubled during the last few years with frequent colics. He supposed his diarrhœa to have arisen from a bad cold, caught during a fatiguing ride on horseback. The discharges generally occurred at night; they were preceded by colicky pains and violent rumblings in the intestines, and after four or five evacuations the patient felt relieved. The discharges were generally of a chocolate color, containing many flakes of mucus, sometimes streaks of blood, and often

undigested food. The general condition of the patient was natural, being only disturbed by a considerable feeling of weakness. All astringents and roborantia had already been used without effect. Having taken charge of the patient during an epidemic of cholera, I commenced by giving him *veratrum*, but without effect. *Corr. sublimate*, *sulphur*, and *phosphorus* were also given without a favorable result. But on the administration of three doses of *Gamboge* of the second dilution, the diarrhœa was suddenly arrested, and the patient has been well since that time.

The following case is somewhat similar: A man from Rovigno, thirty years of age, of medium height and build, had suffered from diarrhœa for the last year. There were from twelve to fifteen discharges daily, accompanied by continual colicky pains and tenesmus. The abdomen was tympanitic, and the ileo-cæcal region especially tender to the touch. The food mostly passed off undigested, and the discharges were liquid and slimy. There was often nightly fever, as well as morning sweats; no appetite, and great thirst; the spirits very much depressed. After being treated for almost a year with the most diverse remedies, he wished to try Homœopathy. I gave him *Gamboge* at once, and after using it for fourteen days, he was completely restored.

Another interesting case was that of a fisherman, who had been troubled by a similar diarrhœa for a year and a half, caused by a severe drenching during a storm, and who was completely cured in three weeks by the same remedy. Still another case was that of a woman, thirty years of age, of delicate build, who had suffered from diarrhœa for eight months. The discharges always occurred at night, and contained flakes of mucus and blood. *Corr. sublimate* alleviated her condition, but *Gamboge* effected a complete cure.

I have always used from the first to the third dilution of *Gamboge*, giving a dose of two drops, two or three times a day.*

*It may be of interest to those unacquainted with Homœopathic therapeutics, who are surprised at this administration of a drastic cathartic in diarrhœa, to know that this is not the only drug of that class which is thus used. In acute and sub-acute forms of diarrhœa, *colocynth* and *aloës* are among the remedies which have been used with the greatest success. The action of this class of remedies seems well calculated to explain why Homœopathic physicians are obliged to administer comparatively small doses of medicine; for it must be evident to the dullest comprehension that the cathartics just mentioned, if given in full doses two or three times a day, in cases of diarrhœa, would not produce a very satisfactory result.

H. L. H. H.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 24, 1856.

TO THE MEDICAL PUBLIC.

For more than a quarter of a century the senior editor of this publication was intimately associated with the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal; and fifty consecutive octavo volumes of that work are permanent memorials of unceasing devotion to the interests and prosperity of the Medical profession of this country. In leaving it, to commence a new enterprise, embracing a wider range and more liberal sentiments, in regard to the various sentiments now prevailing on the subject of Medical Science, no ancient friendship has been disturbed, or unkind feelings generated.

With these introductory observations, an experience of many years induces those engaged in the service of this periodical, to hope for strong encouragement, since nothing shall be wanting on their part to meet the expectations of those who become its patrons.

Although educated to have entire confidence in the old school of medicine, as it has been taught in Europe and America by men illustrious for their attainments, long before many new and anomalous systems, which have their advocates and patrons, had existence, we believe also in the virtue of progress, and therefore open the pages of this journal to medical writers of every denomination throughout the United States.

Our individual opinions shall not interfere with the freest expressions of those who differ from us on medical subjects. Nothing, however, which reflects upon the personal character, professional standing, or influence of professors, practitioners, or authors, is admissible. Criticisms, however, on the writings, teachings, and theories of those representing the various theories at present taught in this or other countries, are legitimate methods of discussion.

Reports of cases, technically prepared as it respects anatomical, surgical, and medical terms, are solicited from any and every respectable source. Diseases and treatment, however much they may differ from our views, shall have equal attention at the hands of the compositor. Allopathic, homœopathic, and hydro-pathic practitioners, and indeed all others, have an opportunity therefore to promulgate their doctrines side by side, in an open field, for the diffusion of truth.

Communications should always be distinctly written, and only on one side of the sheet. Scientific terms, weights, measures, and doses, must be cautiously expressed, to prevent typographical errors.

Living in a republic, and an age distinguished for energy in every department of knowledge, it is in accordance with an enlightened public sentiment, for the press to assist in the dissemination of every fact and discovery which promises to better the condition of humanity.

TENACITY OF OPINION.—Such has been the bitterness of feeling between the different orders of medical practitioners, they have not only disliked each other exceedingly, simply because they profess to differ in opinion upon medical subjects, but they have refused for too long a time to read each other's publications.

Thus far, the medical literature of this country runs in different channels. A journal, according to the astute mode of reasoning peculiar to some, must not admit an article that does not conform, to all intents and purposes, to a peculiar system which embraces their own particular views. Any deviation from what they have been accustomed to, is heretical, and should be denounced as unworthy of consideration.

Men differ on all subjects, and particularly so in religion, politics, and medicine, and they always will; but free discussion ought not to be suppressed by liberal-minded men in the practice of a liberal profession, on account of a jealousy that something may be lost that might have been kept by maintaining a dignified exclusiveness.

The only feasible way of overcoming prejudice, and raising the medical profession, is to enlighten those ignorant pretenders, who being disgrace upon it, by elevating them.

Quacks abound, and quackery was never more rife, bolder, or more successful, than at the present moment, a period distinguished for intelligence. Instead of quarrelling with the multitude, persuade them by all fair and proper means to matriculate at the schools, listen to the instruction of public professors, and their ranks would soon present a different aspect.

New schools, the very antipodes of our own, are perpetually on the increase, notwithstanding a spirited determination to keep them down. It is by that kind of persecution they thrive and multiply. However incompetent they may be to alleviate the physical disabilities of those who consult them, the masses sympathize with them; employ them because they are imagined to have been badly treated, and legislative bodies clothe them with collegiate powers upon the same principle. "*The blood of the martyr is the seed of the Church.*"

With a philanthropic hope of gathering something from all these opposing elements, which may result in the fraternal advancement of the whole, without injury to any, we propose a new medical platform, based on mutual concessions, and a free, untrammelled expression of sentiments.

The Medical World, with its broad open columns, is at the service of the whole medical public, by whatever name designated. Write and be friends.

HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTITIONERS.—A correct catalogue of the Homœopathic Physicians in active practice in the United States, indicates the growing confidence of the people in that system of medicine. The North American Journal of Homœopathy, for

August, gives the names and residence of *eight* in Alabama, *four* in California, *forty-eight* in Connecticut, *five* in Delaware, *five* in the District of Columbia, *three* in Florida, *thirteen* in Georgia, *one hundred and four* in Illinois, *sixteen* in Indiana, *twelve* in Iowa, *one* in Kansas, *thirteen* in Kentucky, *twenty-two* in Louisiana, *thirty-one* in Maine, *twenty-one* in Maryland, *one hundred and twenty-two* in Massachusetts, *thirty-eight* in Michigan, and *four* in Minnesota. When the whole list is published, which is now in progress, it will show that the Homœopathic school is vigorous, and increasing both in numbers and importance.

Illinois and Massachusetts appear to offer more encouragement, thus far, to Homœopathy, than any of the States from which returns of names have been received. How can the fact be accounted for? Surely there has been opposition enough in both to discourage an army.

DEATH OF A GOOD PHYSICIAN.—On the 28th of November, 1855, Dr. Elijah Woodward Carpenter died at Bernardston, Mass., at the age of 67 years.

Had justice been done to the memory of that excellent man, a memoir of his life and services would have appeared before the termination of nearly a year from the date of his demise. But when it is recollected that he was nothing but a plain, unostentatious gentleman, who never flattered his inferiors, nor courted the acquaintance of simpletons on account of their possessions, it will be understood why his example has not been held up for imitation, or his modest virtues for admiration.

Unobtrusive worth, in these days of selfish ambition, has no encouragement while living, nor but few mourners out of the family when dead. Still, that does not lessen the intrinsic value of those qualities of the heart which promote human happiness. He who is conscious of having contributed to the extent of his power to advance the interest of society; who never wronged the widow, nor brought any other tears than those of gratitude to the orphan's eye, has lived to some purpose. The approval of the monitor within, is far better than the applause of sycophants and hypocrites without.

Accidentally taking up a discourse preached at the funeral of Dr. Carpenter, induced us to look into his claims and character. It was a poor sermon, made out of the very best materials. Instead of a cold, formal dissertation, it might have been permanently instructive, by saying directly what the author felt, that he had lost a friend, and humanity a devoted servant.

Unexceptionable physicians are not readily found; but no one need be afraid to speak of their good deeds because it may reproach some one who is guilty of many bad ones. The sermon was not sufficiently eulogistic. No bold figures are standing out on the wall; no, not one brilliant expression, or a poetical idea, is to be found in the eighteen pages with a blue cover. Icy and respectful, solemn and stupid, it has lamentably failed to show what the town, the Commonwealth, and the country lost in the death of Dr. Carpenter.

Grozelier's lithographic likeness, like all the pencil work of that talented artist, is spirited. An acquaintance of forty years' standing comments thus on the last scene, beautiful and impressive in an eminent degree.

"The closing up of his life was without a wish to change his prospects, or to continue a single day. Perfectly sensible of his approaching departure, not a wish or a fear did he manifest, even to his nearest friend, that death was anything more to him than laying down to rest."

"Let us pause; let the moral come home to the heart;
Behold how of earth all the glories depart!
Our visions are fading, our hopes but a gleam,
Our staff but a reed, and our life but a dream.

Then, O, let us look; let our prospects allure
To scenes that can fade not, to realms that endure;
To glories, to blessings that triumph sublime,
O'er the blightings of Change and the ruins of Time."

PRIVATE ASYLUM FOR DRUNKARDS.—Drunkenness appertains to civilized society. It is a disease not easily cured. These two propositions no one in his senses would think of disputing. Again, there are two kinds of drunkards,—one in high life, and the other in low. The latter are sent to the House of Correction, at first, to punish them; and at the Alms-house, at last, because they cannot take care of themselves.

An asylum is required for aristocratic drunkards, who are a mortification to their families and friends, but who have property to pay their own way, whether drunk or sober.

To the point. 1st. In all the cities drunkards of this latter description are numerous.

2d. Accomplished medical gentlemen also reside in cities, who have nothing to do—and unfortunately they are so constituted that they never will, where they are, professionally.

Let any two of this description move into the country, between thirty and fifty miles, and open a large, commodious establishment for this denomination of inebriates, and fortunes might be insured to each.

Parents would send their dissipated sons to the asylum; chloroform-inhaling ladies, and those also who take more brandy and wine than their systems will bear, would board there for their health; and, in short, the institution would be bountifully patronized, and liberally paid.

Instead of staying and starving, why not embark in this enterprise?

A physician is the only person who could succeed with the undertaking, because patients would take up a permanent residence with him, in order to have the constant benefit of his advice. There is pride enough remaining with this class of tipplers to resent the suggestion from any source, that they could not resist the temptation to drink, or that they were hard drinkers; while it is very proper, genteel, and in conformity to the rules of refined circles, to retire to the country in consequence of being in poor health.

BOSTON MEDICAL COLLEGE.—It is spoken of in the Circular for 1856 as an ancient College of Medicine. After a world of delay, the easterly side of North Grove street has been hewn away, so that the beautiful front elevation of the building can be seen. Strangers can now find their way to the institution from Cambridge street, without a pilot or compass.

If the annual nuisance of hammering iron pipes commences this season, simultaneously with the lectures, the city authorities ought to be indicted for allowing both Faculty and students to be so grievously annoyed.

These are sensible observations taken from the circular:—

"The science of medicine has been so largely extended by the discoveries and investigations of the last last quarter of a century, that each special department has become almost a distinct pursuit. It would obviously be impossible to present a detailed view of this extended field of knowledge, in a single course of lectures, even if it embraced the whole year. The student must acquire a large portion of his information from text-books. Lectures, however, should unfold distinctly the principles of the science he is studying, and enforce and illustrate them in a way that books cannot do. They should give prominence to what is important; explain what is obscure; illustrate what is difficult; and by means of experiments, demonstrations, and plates, by the use of the Laboratory, Hospital, Museum, and Dissecting-room, they should teach to the eye, and impress upon the memory, the most practical and important matters pertaining to the principles and practice of Medicine and Surgery."

Without a competitor, this school has never had that patronage which is due to its actual merits. Under the old regime the students stood in supreme awe of the professors. They saw, heard, and departed from the presence of professional giants. A new system, to the honor of the present Faculty, has been inaugurated; young gentlemen who come among us utter strangers, to acquire medical knowledge where the facilities are unsurpassed, are now kindly recognized as belonging to the human family, encouraged and invited to meet each other in the society of eminent professional men of the city, where they establish agreeable acquaintances and form pleasant associations for after life. That is the true method of building up an institution.

This College will be the subject of further consideration.

DRUGGISTS AND APOTHECARIES.—Their vocation has been singularly modified in the present century, in consequence of the numerous medical isms that have sprung into notoriety. In good old times, when large doses were prescribed, theirs was a legitimate trade, yielding a profit worth having.

A gentleman's wife, being taken sick in the night, in the halcyon days of the Boston apothecaries, called in one of the *Æsculapian* venerables. He was a solid man in more than one sense. After a thorough categorical series of questions, always the same, whether the patient had a broken limb or the measles, — such

as "How are your bowels? Any pain in the head? More thirst than usual? Appetite natural?" &c., to a prolonged tediousness, the grave, considerate gentleman calmly seated himself, put on his glasses, sharpened a pencil, and wrote a prescription.

In the mean time the lady's symptoms underwent considerable change for the better during this protracted examination. But he was an *old physician* and therefore both sound and safe. At length the nervous husband ran to a corner shop with the mysterious scratches, which there is no certainty the man who made them could decipher.

The apothecary weighed powder after powder; artistically tied each with red twine, and then commenced filling phials.

"Sir," ejaculated the impatient spouse, astonished at the rising mound of packages, — "My wife, I fear, is dying, — I hope this is all." "All! friend; only about half," quietly remarked the dealer in scruples.

"Well, sir, allow me to carry these and set them in motion, and I'll immediately return for the remainder."

"No, sir, — I pride myself in being accurate; — a regular apothecary. The lady has had the advice of a physician whom I respect, and you must follow his directions as I shall."

The husband paid a round bill, and with his arms full of samples of pretty much all the drugs in the establishment, found madam so much improved that she concluded not to take any of them.

This is a specimen of the way physicians formerly played into the till of the apothecaries, who were wrongfully accused by meddling gossips of paying a trifling per centage for prescriptions like the one just cited.

But with the advent of new theories, new medical aspirants, the death of a score of old ones, and the universal aversion to taking old-fashioned doses, the apothecaries have suffered immensely. Against their wishes, they have actually been compelled to embark in the sale of every imaginable nostrum, — articles of the toilet, &c., — which is a wide departure from the former aristocratic notions entertained by them of what constituted the respectability of the dispensing druggist and apothecary.

As a distinct body of merchants, intimately associated with the medical profession, they possess at this epoch far higher qualifications than their ancient predecessors of the old school.

It is honorable to them that they are associated throughout the United States, and hold annual conventions expressly for elevating the craft and establishing uniformity in all that pertains to their legitimate domain. Colleges of pharmacy, serial publications for diffusing chemical and pharmaceutical discoveries, and obliging those who propose to become members of the fraternity to attend public lectures, are calculated to advance them with the age, secure the respect of the community, and strengthen the confidence of the people in the integrity and usefulness of regularly educated druggists and apothecaries.

A CLERGYMAN'S TONE.—Some of the best sermon writers in this country are the most unsuccessful preachers, simply on account of a singularly monotonous tone of voice which they adopt, in the pulpit, that has the effect upon an audience of a dose of paregoric. It is a prodigious effort to keep awake under their clerical ministrations, and the difficulty lies exclusively in the speaker, and not in his hearers. So confirmed is the habit in many admirable clergymen, otherwise considered, that in rising to address a secular meeting on politics or charity, for example, that unlucky *tone* gets possession of them, and all their arguments lose the weight to which they are really entitled, because every one whispers,—“That’s a regular sermon,—I’m going to take a nap.”

When one of these bag-pipe drones exchanges for a Sabbath with a brother minister, every eye is open,—every one hears and goes away delighted. Another note in the vocal scale has been sounded, to which the people were unaccustomed, which is the secret of their having been kept wide awake,—even though the stranger also may have had the voice of a dozy chant, but it was a new one to them.

Occasionally one of these comatose gentlemen changes his parochial relations, and receives a new call. For a while, upon the principle that a new broom sweeps clean, he commands the attention of the congregation; but after a while that unlucky *tone* becomes the subject of regret, and by and by he is again at liberty for a settlement in another parish.

Theological institutions should watch with parental care over the elocutionary exercises of their students, since much of their success in the vocation they have chosen depends, in this exacting age, upon *manner* as well as the matter.

A physiological law is violated when the clergyman’s words are all uttered in a solemn, monotonous hum, which vibrates through the church like a single chord of an *Æolian* harp. The human ear is a complicated organ, requiring a constant variation of sound to keep the brain vigilant. A perpetual dripping of water predisposes to sleep, because there is no music in it. So it is with the voice of a clergyman who continually plays that most wonderful of all instruments, his own vocal apparatus, by sounding only a single note. Clergymen might all be orators. Their influence would be increased a thousand fold by only studying the mighty powers always at command, but sadly neglected,—the music of their own voices. Each carries a musical contrivance in his own chest, which he should learn to play with skill before giving exhibitions in public, where they cannot escape the severities of criticism, if they are poor performers. Chickering’s magnificent pianos, of national celebrity, would have no reputation were they given up exclusively to children to be thrummed upon; but when a master touches the keys we are electrified. So it might, could, and should be with the human voice, when expounding the divine truths of revelation.

BOARDS OF HEALTH.—What a farce, when contemplated by men of scientific training, is the ordinary construction of a Board of Health, with not an individual in it, perhaps, who knows the difference between epidemic and endemic; and if by the assistance of a dictionary they have made the discovery, what are the qualifications of such persons to determine great questions in regard to public health, who have neither had experience nor read a syllable on Sanation?

It is an imposition upon the merchants, and a dead weight on commerce, to select men to act as Health Commissioners, who must necessarily be profoundly ignorant of the laws by which infectious diseases are controlled.

There would be less commercial loss and fewer aggravated cases of unnecessary detentions of cargoes at a distance from port, if those opinionated donkeys who are unfortunately elected at times to the position, would take the advice of physicians.

They rarely do so. Their decrees are sovereign, and hence ridiculous detention of vessels at quarantine stations; farcical edicts respecting disinfecting processes to be pursued, and iniquitous exactions in the shape of fees.

These Board of Health impositions, of course differ in different cities; but under the mildest form of administration, the doings are an absurdity. Why don’t the merchants rise in their numerical strength and ask the legislature to modify the act by inserting, “and the inhabitants of said city shall annually elect twelve discreet, well-informed practitioners of medicine, who shall constitute the said Board of Health?”

Any one who has visited the ports of the Mediterranean, knows that their commerce has been nearly ruined by the establishment of health regulations perfectly Draconian in character. A tendency to the same system of unrighteous severity is discoverable in several of the leading Atlantic seaports; and which in the end must prove equally disastrous for trade. Select competent members for the Boards of Health, and present evils, and all of the anticipated difficulties might be obviated. If a coat requires a new button, or a stitch in the lining, send it to a tailor; but because he can mend a rip, is he qualified to legislate on the public health? and at his behest shall a ship and cargo be kept at Staten Island till the owner is ruined for want of the goods?

Merchants,—the staff is in your own hand,—why don’t you use it?

QUARANTINES.—New York is fifty years behind the age of medical common sense in respect to the value of a quarantine establishment. Commerce will certainly be diverted to an extent to be appreciated before those having most at stake are aware of it, if some generous modifications are not proposed. It is now a gigantic institution at Staten Island, for supporting a so-called health officer with a larger revenue than any other official in the State, to the embarrass-

ment of trade and the personal injury of the merchants. From beginning to end, in all its mischievous ramifications, the system is of no earthly value, there or any where else, in preventing the introduction of diseases.

Take out the sick immediately when the vessel comes into port, and goods also, if wet, decomposing, or offensive; but let the crew, passengers and cargo go to the docks and be discharged. A detention at the quarantine ground, from its expense, the angry passions engendered by the absurdity of the law which so vitally clogs the wheels of trade, and the confinement to the vessel in still water, in sight of friends and business, is the cause of full as much sickness as comes by importation.

SUMMER DISEASES.—More than half of those disorders which are regarded as the necessary accompaniments of the summer season, are really the results of indiscretion in eating and drinking.

While some have vigorously asserted that where there are no physicians there is little or no sickness, it would be very nearly true if they were to say that civilization tolerates habits and customs destructive to health, which are unknown to new settlements in new countries. Kansas and Minnesota are now poor fields for the practice of medicine. When the population becomes dense, rich, and indolent, medical services will be in demand, as in the old States.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Arrangements will soon be completed for having a full and reliable synopsis of whatever is most interesting to the profession, in all the principal cities of the United States.

The price is less than any other Medical Journal in America, containing the same amount of matter. Its frequent appearance, freshness, and energy, freighted as it will be with every variety of medical intelligence, cannot fail of making *The Medical World* a welcome messenger to the profession.

Subscriptions are received for six, nine, or twelve months, — which makes it a very economical journal, and within the reach of every medical gentleman throughout the Union. The money must invariably be paid in advance, by mail, or through expressmen and agents. The publishing officers are centrally located in the centre of business, and accessible at all hours, No. 16 Devonshire street, Damrell & Moore, and George Coolidge's large Printing Office, and at James French & Co.'s, No. 78 Washington street, south of the head of State street.

ANONYMOUS WRITERS.—Papers sent to this journal for publication, without a responsible name, cannot have insertion. Where no responsibility is incurred, and the author merely advances an opinion, or comments upon writings, his name may be confidentially given to the editor, without having it appear in type, if he so requests.

BOOKS FOR EDITORIAL NOTICE.—When publishers are particularly desirous of apprising the medical profession of a forth-coming publication, by forwarding the title-page their object will be attained. Books for editorial notice should be sent as soon as published, — by mail or express, — directed to *The Medical World*, No. 78 Washington Street, Boston. A copy of the Journal, containing observations upon new works, is directed to the address of those from whom books are received. Extra copies also are furnished all authors of articles written for this periodical.

ADVERTISING.—Druggists, Apothecaries, Manufacturers of Surgical Apparatus, Chemists, and Publishers of Medical and other kinds of Scientific Works, will find this journal a valuable medium for acquainting the public with their locations and facilities for trade.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

ARMY METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.—A more elegantly published quarto has not appeared on a subject so little studied in this country. But its value is not alone in type, paper, and binding. There is a treasure within, which will be a more permanent monument to the memory of the present Surgeon General of the United States army, than a marble obelisk. Whoever advances the intellect, or even remotely contributes to a clearer understanding of the laws which govern the material world, secures to himself a niche in the house of remembrance, where his name will ever after be found in connection with others of all ages, who were instrumentalities under a governing Providence for solving problems essential to our knowledge of the leading phenomena of nature.

A quarto of six hundred and sixty-three pages, more than two-thirds of which are solid columns of figures, is no every-day publication. Then there follows a series of almost yard-long isothermal and hyetal charts; some with colored lines of uncommon beauty and accuracy, giving additional importance to the text.

No individual author, without the treasury of a Cræsus, could have brought out a work of such high cost. The Secretary of War, therefore, took the subject under his patronage, and the Government defrayed the expense. "*Army Meteorological Register for twelve years, from 1843 to 1854, inclusive, compiled from observations made by the officers of the Medical Department of the Army, at the military posts of the United States, prepared under the direction of Brevet Brigadier General Thomas Lawson, Surgeon General United States Army.*" Such is the title,—the labor of medical men, without containing anything medical. Latitudes and longitudes of localities;—mean thermometrical temperature throughout the year; course of the winds; quantity of rain and snow, accurately expressed, indicate the watchfulness of medical officers, and the requirements of the Government of those holding positions in the service.

On every page, commencing with the first, the master-hand of Dr. Richard H. Coolidge, an assistant surgeon in the army, is apparent. He brought order out of chaos. From wagon loads upon wagon loads of sheets of paper, covered with numerical characters,—the accumulations of twelve years,—we suppose he sat down with the patience of an ancient philosopher, to give them arrangement, and afterwards obtained the essence of the whole. Each map was drawn under Dr. Coolidge's vigilant eye. Not one in a thousand, however well qualified, would have had perseverance enough to have carried through these enormous collections of numerals. Nor is there, upon an average, we venture to assert, one man in a thousand, who will appreciate the extent of Dr. Coolidge's herculean labors. But somebody will in all subsequent ages. It is just what some minute inquirer will peer over with satisfaction, because it is a twelve year's link in the chain of wind and weather, and it may be an inquiry of grave importance five hundred years hence to compare the height of the mercury in dog days then, with the mark it stood at in Fort Snelling in Minnesota, or Fort Leavenworth in the territory of Kansas, five hundred years before.

Meteorological science, geological problems, and, perhaps, astronomical calculations, are all to be assisted by these innumerable tabular statements, and it may be that medicine, too, is to come in for a share of the benefits from the keeping of this register at the expense of Government, in explaining the periodicity of certain diseases.

Honestly confessing that figures,—even a week's market bill,—are contemplated with extreme horror, it is all that may be necessary to say, as an apology for not having said more. We are confirmed in the opinion that the person who makes a book of nothing but figures as large as the one under consideration must be learned;—and in our humble estimation his production should be on the same shelf with Dr. Bowditch's translation of *La Place*, besides having an honorary degree of LL. D.

MARRIAGES.—Henry King, M. D., of Warwick, R. I., to W. H. Low, of East Greenwich, R. I. In New York, Dr. E. P. Vellum, of the U. S. Army, to Miss A. A. Lyon. F. A. Sawyer, M. D., Sterling, Mass., to Miss H. M. Deane.

Lewis Miller, M. D., of Kingston, N. C., to Miss M. E. Jameson, of Woburn, Mass.

Lewis Campbell, M. D., of North Carolina, to Miss E. J. Norcross, of Lexington, Mass.

DEATHS OF PHYSICIANS.—At Athol, Mass., in consequence of an injury in being thrown from his carriage, Dr. H. B. Austin.

At Salem, Mass., Dr. John G. Treadwell, 51, who is understood to have left a very large estate, which is ultimately to go to Harvard College.

At Lenox, Mass., Robert Worthington, M. D., 64.

At Middleton, Conn., Dr. L. Tracy, 93.

At New York, J. Cockcroft, M. D., 63.

At Cincinnati, July 10th, Dr. John Locke, 65, distinguished for his various attainments in science.

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THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

OCTOBER 8, 1856.

NUMBER 2.

TRIAL OF DR. WILLIAM PALMER, FOR MURDER.

Nothing has occurred in the annals of crime, for many years, in England, that produced a greater sensation than the recent murder of John Parsons Cook, whose death was alleged to have been caused by strychnine, administered to him by his intimate associate, William Palmer.

The principal object in presenting the following analysis of the case from the *Law Reporter* is to exhibit a legal comment on the character of the testimony upon which the prisoner was convicted, and subsequently executed. All the foreign journals have very fully discussed the subject, and brought forth the results of a vast amount of critical research in relation to that most subtle and potent of all poisons—strychnine.

The recent trial of William Palmer, for the murder of John Parsons Cook, deserves more than a passing notice. The extraordinary circumstances under which the crime was committed, the universal interest excited by it among all classes of persons in England, and the character of the trial, all combine to render the case one of uncommon importance to the whole community, as well as to the legal profession.

Palmer, the convicted murderer, was a man about thirty-one years old. He was originally possessed of some property, received a good medical education, and began to practise as a physician. He married early in life a young girl, an heiress, and very soon abandoned the practice of his profession for the more exciting and congenial occupation of the turf. He owned race horses, attended all the races, and betted largely. In this pursuit he soon lost whatever fortune he had; and in the year 1853 was forced to raise money to enable him to carry on his racing speculations. To obtain funds he had recourse to usurers, and from

one of these he obtained money at the enormous rate of sixty per cent. per annum. This rate of interest, which seems to men in legitimate business so frightful, is said by persons of experience to be rather a moderate premium for loans made under such circumstances. The securities upon which these loans were made consisted of Palmer's notes, with the indorsement of his mother, a woman of considerable fortune. The indorsements, it appears, were not genuine, but were either forged by Palmer himself, or written by his wife, by his direction. His success on the turf did not furnish him with the means of paying these loans, and he was obliged to have recourse to other expedients. He procured an insurance of £13,000 upon the life of his wife, and in a few months she died. The insurance was paid to Palmer without objection, though since his arrest upon the charge of which he stands convicted, there have been grave suspicions that she died by no natural means, and he has been indicted for her murder. At a late date he procured a similar insurance of the same amount upon the life of his brother Walter, an uncertified bankrupt, who also died. The same suspicion exists in this case, though no bill has been found against Palmer. There is some evidence, also, that the original proposal was for an insurance of £1000, and that the amount of the proposal was altered by Palmer and a confederate, without the knowledge of his brother. About the time of Cook's death, Palmer was also endeavoring to effect a further insurance of £13,000 on the life of a man by the name of Bates, a *quasi* groom in his employ; but this scheme was not accomplished, and originated probably in the refusal of the insurers to pay the policy on the life of his brother.

Mr. John Parsons Cook, the victim of Palmer's crime, seems to have been rather a graceless youth, who, possessed of a fortune of about £12,000, and bred as an attorney, preferred a life of reckless dissipation and pleas-

ure, and had been for some years a well-known racing man. He was an intimate of Palmer's, who seems to have been a popular man among his fellows, and Palmer and he had been concerned together in races and racing speculations.

On the 13th of last November, Cook's horse, the "Polestar," won the Shrewsbury Handicap, and at the same races Palmer's horse, "Chicken," was beaten. By this turn of fortune Cook was the winner of nearly £2000, and Palmer was a hopeless bankrupt. He owed his money-lender £13,000 upon the forged notes, and was daily pressed for payment, and threatened with suits against his mother upon her supposed indorsements. He had but a mere trifle at his banker's. The payment of the insurance upon his brother's life was refused, and he had no possible resource. Under these circumstances, upon the theory of the prosecution, he determined to possess himself of all Cook's late winnings, of the horse Polestar, and whatever other property Cook might have, and by these means, if possible, to retrieve his condition; and for this purpose he compassed his death. It was urged by the defence that Cook was his most intimate friend, that there had been previous transactions between them, that to save him from bankruptcy Cook was willing to furnish, and was actually lending him his recent gains, and that to no one was the death of Cook so great a misfortune as to Palmer, whose ruin became thereby inevitable. It is not material for us to discuss which of these theories was the most clearly supported by the evidence. It was shown that Palmer, during the week succeeding the races while Cook was ill at Rugely, received some portion of the money that Cook had won, and applied it to the payment of his own debts; that he either fraudulently, or with Cook's consent, endeavored to obtain possession of other sums, and either procured or forged Cook's signature to an instrument acknowledging a large indebtedness to Palmer.

Passing from this to the other points of the case, it appears that on the 5th of November Cook left London for Rugely, the town in which Palmer lived; that he was then in excellent health, though he had been suffering from sores in the throat, the result of previous dissipation, which, however, were rapidly disappearing; and that at midnight on Tuesday, November 20, he died in great agony, after a very short and sudden illness. A coroner's inquest was held, and the jury returned a ver-

dict of wilful murder against William Palmer. The excitement in Staffordshire, in which county Rugely is situated, was so great, and the prejudice against Palmer so intense, that, on the suggestion of Lord Campbell, a special act of parliament was passed, allowing the prisoner the benefit of trial at the Metropolitan Court of the Old Bailey, in London, and providing that the expenses of the trial should be kept as a separate account by the proper officer; that this account should be transmitted to the authorities of Staffordshire; that all objections to any of its items should be made by them in twenty-four hours after receiving it; and that it should be paid by the county of Staffordshire. And at a later day the government directed the attorney-general, Sir Alexander Cockburn, to take charge of the prosecution, instead of leaving its management to counsel, to be employed by the private prosecutor, as is usual in England. By the courtesy of the attorney-general, the counsel for the defence were fully informed beforehand of all the evidence for the prosecution, and on the 7th of May, after all this preparation, the trial came on in London before three judges, Lord Campbell, Baron Alderson, and Mr. Justice Cresswell. The leading counsel for Palmer was Mr. Shee, a barrister of considerable professional reputation, who evinced great ingenuity and boldness in his conduct of the cause, and whose argument for the defence, occupying eight hours in delivery, was extremely forcible and able. It is said that the prisoner's brief was offered to Sir Fitzroy Kelly, and that he demanded the enormous sum of 1000 guineas retainer, besides a very large fee for each day that the trial should continue, thus putting an effective prohibitory tariff upon his employment. The trial occupied twelve days, an unprecedented length of time for a criminal case in England. As the Old Bailey contains no accommodations for jurymen, the jury were kept at the London Coffee House, and were taken to the Temple Garden for a daily walk, attended service on Sunday at the Newgate Chapel, and were conveyed for a short excursion to the country. In the course of the trial, one of them made a pathetic appeal to Lord Campbell, for permission to go under the charge of an officer to visit his wife, who had been confined during his absence. This request, his lordship, hearing that the lady was doing very well, thought might furnish a bad precedent, if acceded to, and so refused.

Before proceeding to a statement of the evi-

dence in the case, a brief description of the prison and the court, and the general appearance and conduct of the trial, may not be uninteresting.

The prison in which Palmer was confined was the Old Newgate prison, from which a private passage leads through the burial-ground where the bones of executed felons repose, and finally opens directly into the dock of the court-room; and through this Palmer was daily conducted. Both the bench and the bar wear wigs and gowns, as well as the sheriffs and the governor of the prison. These gowns vary in color and style, those of the judges are of blue cloth with broad pink cuffs, and a sort of red hood at the back. At the opening of the trial the judges all appear with bouquets, and the prisoner's bouquet, composed of rue, is strewn before him. The prisoner stands during the whole trial. The counsel for the crown open their case and introduce their evidence. The counsel for the prisoner then makes his argument, and afterwards puts in his evidence. The counsel for the prosecution replies, and the judge sums up, reading all the evidence of importance from his notes, and thereupon charging the jury. The decided disadvantage of this course to the prisoner is of course very great in every case, particularly as by the custom of the English bar, his counsel must argue upon his brief without having seen a single witness; and it was especially injurious in this case, as the opening argument went far beyond the evidence, and as it gave the defence no opportunity to explain or argue away several defects in testimony and a very bad appearance on the part of some of the witnesses.

We have already stated the evidence of Palmer's pecuniary circumstances, at the time of Cook's death, and the relations then existing between them.

From the other evidence in the case, it appeared that on the evening of the 14th of November, the day after his horse had won the race, Cook and Palmer were together at the inn at Shrewsbury; that Cook had been drinking somewhat, and was more or less affected by it, and that Palmer was seen mixing some colorless liquid in the passage-way leading to his room. Cook drank some brandy and water prepared by Palmer, and immediately exclaimed that there was something in it; that it burned his throat dreadfully; and that Palmer took the glass, and drank what was left; said there was nothing in it, and handed

it to a third person to examine. Cook was very soon after taken sick and vomited badly; he sent for a physician, and took some medicine, but was better the next day, and out on the race-course. On Thursday evening, November 15, Cook arrived in company with Palmer at the inn at Rugely. He was not well, but was out the next day, dined with Palmer, and said he felt no worse for it. The next morning Palmer came to the inn to see him, and gave him some coffee, which Cook very soon vomited. On Sunday he sent Cook some broth, which the chambermaid of the inn tasted, and was very shortly afterwards taken ill.

On Monday, Palmer went up to London on business. He had previously called a physician at Rugely to attend Cook, and on that day he wrote to Mr. Jones, of Lutterworth, another medical man, a friend of Cook's, telling him that Cook was ill with a bilious attack, and asking him to come to see him.

Having spent the day in London, he returned to Rugely late at night, stopped at a druggist's, with whom he did not usually deal, and purchased three grains of strychnine, and either before or after this purchase went to the inn, saw Cook, and gave him some pills, the physician having prescribed and given to Palmer certain pills for Cook to take. In about an hour Cook, who had previously been ailing, rather than seriously ill, and who, in the course of the day had seen and talked with his jockey and trainer, and said he was much better, aroused all the occupants of the inn, by ringing his bell violently, and by the cry of "Murder! Christ! Have mercy on my soul." The housekeeper and servants hastened to his room, and found him in great agony, beating the bed with his hands, and exclaiming that he should be suffocated. He directed them to send for Palmer, whose house was directly opposite the inn, and who came over immediately. The attack lasted about half an hour; during the whole of it Cook complained greatly of his dread lest he should suffocate; he was violently convulsed, and snapped at the glass and spoon in which a composing draught was offered him. Palmer was with him the whole time, and never left till nearly six o'clock on Tuesday.

On that morning, between eleven and twelve o'clock, Palmer purchased of another druggist six grains of strychnine and some opium. Cook was awake at noon, and wanted some coffee, and said he was better. About three

o'clock, Mr. Jones, Cook's friend, to whom Palmer had written, arrived. He found Cook's symptoms very different from Palmer's description, and told Palmer so. In the evening the Rugely physician, Jones, and Palmer, had a consultation about Cook's case. Some pills were prepared for him by the Rugely practitioner and given to Palmer, and by him on the same night pills from the same box were administered to Cook. Mr. Jones was to sleep in Cook's room that night. Within an hour after taking the pills, Cook was attacked in the same manner as on the night before. Palmer was again sent for. He came almost immediately. Cook was violently convulsed, and complained of suffocation, and asked to be raised in bed, but was so rigid that this was impossible. At his own request he was turned upon his side, and very shortly died. When he died he was so rigid and his muscles were so contracted, that, as the witnesses testified, if laid upon his back, only the head and heels would have come in contact with the bed. His feet were likewise very much arched, and his hands bent, and the women who laid out the body testified to its extraordinary rigidity. The Rugely physician gave a certificate, that Cook died from apoplexy, and no one seems to have had as yet any suspicion that there had been any foul play.

The next day but one, Mr. Stevens, Cook's stepfather, came down to Rugely. His failure to find Cook's betting-book, and Palmer's statement that he had a claim against Cook for about £4000, seem to have led him to suspect that all was not right. He returned to London, came again to Rugely, and directed a post mortem examination. This took place in presence of several medical men, among whom was Palmer. They found no symptoms of disease, except the old sores in the throat and some white granules at the lower part of the spine, and came to a result somewhat similar to that of the attending physician. The stomach and intestines were taken out and placed in a jar to be carried to London. Palmer said to the boy who was to drive Mr. Stevens with this jar to the station, "I'd give £10 to see the jar upset." The contents of the jar were sent to Dr. Taylor, an eminent chemist in London, for his analysis, and he was told generally the circumstances of Cook's death, and directed to search for poisons, without specially directing his inquiries to an examination for strychnine.

While Mr. Taylor's examination was going on, the coroner's jury was in session at Rugely,

and Palmer sent to the coroner at least one present of game, anonymously, and wrote him one or more notes. He also bribed the postmaster, (whom he had previously solicited to witness Cook's name to a written admission of debt, which he had not seen signed,) to open Dr. Taylor's letter to the coroner stating the result of his investigations. These had resulted in the discovery of some antimony, but no strychnine, or prussic acid, or similar poison. And the defect of the evidence on this point was supplied by the testimony of medical men, that strychnine acts upon the system by absorption into the blood; is carried by the circulation to the nervous system; that through its influence on this the whole muscular system is violently and spasmodically contracted, convulsed, and stiffened, the muscles of the chest being especially affected, and that thus death is finally produced by suffocation; that only the excess of the poison beyond what is necessary to produce death is to be found in the stomach; and that where the minimum dose sufficient for this purpose has been given, of course no strychnine could be discovered there.

Eminent medical gentlemen also testified that there were three kinds of tetanus, or lock-jaw; traumatic tetanus, or that proceeding from external wounds, and that this was never caused by such wounds as those old sores in Cook's throat; idiopathic tetanus, or that which came on without any external cause, a form almost unknown in England, but not uncommon in India among young children and women shortly after childbirth; and tetanus from strychnine. That the last form was clearly distinguishable from the others in several particulars, but especially in its duration; the first two occupying as many hours in their progress, as the latter minutes; and, that in their opinion, the symptoms of Cook's death were inconsistent with death from any other known cause than tetanus from strychnine. The same witnesses also testified that the generic distinction between the convulsions of tetanus and all other classes of convulsions, and particularly epileptic convulsions, was, that in tetanic convulsions alone did the sufferer retain his consciousness; and a note-book of Palmer's was produced, which had the leaf turned down at a page containing a description of death from strychnine. Persons who had actually witnessed deaths from strychnine were also introduced, and described the cases which they had seen; and upon this mass of evidence the prosecution rested its theory that Palmer

killed Cook by first administering antimony as a preparative and irritant, and then poisoning him with strychnine.

The evidence for the defence, except the medical testimony, is not important. Much of it was weak; one witness at least proved himself untrustworthy. And as a whole, it fell far short of the previous statements in the learned sergeant's argument. The medical testimony was of two kinds; first, that of practitioners, who, having heard the evidence of the symptoms and manner of Cook's death, thought it attributable to some cause other than strychnine; and second, that of chemists, who questioned the accuracy of the evidence given for the prosecution as to the manner in which strychnine affects the system, and who testified positively that it could be discovered in all cases where it had been administered. With respect to the first class of evidence, it is enough to say that the witnesses were not, as appears by their own showing, men of eminence or first-rate ability in their profession; that but few of them were metropolitan practitioners, or had enjoyed any very large experience. Each of them explained Cook's death upon a different theory, and most of them founded their theories upon solitary cases which had occurred in their own practice, the symptoms of which bore only a partial resemblance to Cook's, and about which all that could be said was, that in these cases it was not known that any poison had been taken. The evidence of the chemists seems to us even less satisfactory and convincing. Most of the witnesses testified that if strychnine had been administered it could be discovered in the system, but hesitated to say that it could certainly be found in the stomach. Some one or two testified that it could certainly be discovered there, but their testimony was marked by an evident bias and partisan spirit; and against it was to be set the statement of Dr. Taylor, a witness, we fear, almost equally biased, that he had experimented on two rabbits, with very small doses, and had been unable to find the strychnine after death. In the cases, too, upon which these witnesses relied, the doses given had been excessive, making them easily distinguishable from the experiments of Dr. Taylor, and from the theory of the prosecution. And this whole evidence could be at once explained away by admitting that Dr. Taylor did not apply proper tests.

After a careful examination of the whole evidence, the conviction seems to us right. Yet we feel very doubtful whether the result

would have been the same in this country; and still more doubtful whether Palmer can be said to have had a fair trial according to the practice here. In spite of all that was done in this case to favor the prisoner, there is no question in our minds, that if such a trial had taken place here, the chances of an acquittal, and the advantages on the side of the prisoner, would have been increased tenfold; and this solely from the difference in the practice of law and the trial of criminal cases in the two countries. In the first place the counsel could, without violating professional decorum, have seen beforehand all his witnesses,—indeed he would have been faithless to his duty, if he had not seen them. In the second place, the argument for the defence would have been made after all the testimony was in, and could have been adapted to the case as it actually stood then; and the gain in these particulars is, in our opinion, almost inestimable. And in the third place, it seems to us, from the well known practice of American judges, and their manner of charging juries, that the medical testimony, by far the most important in the case, both in a legal point of view, and in its bearing upon the prisoner, would have been much more thoroughly discussed and commented on than was thought necessary by Lord Campbell.

For more than four months the minds of the whole population of England have been in a state of feverish excitement about this case. For about that length of time the results of Dr. Taylor's analysis, which we have already stated, and his testimony subsequently given before the coroner's jury, that in his opinion Cook died from strychnine, have been generally known, and have been privately and publicly discussed by all the medical and scientific men in England. More than one review, and numerous newspapers and journals of greater magnitude, have treated of this matter in their columns, till nearly the whole public, as well as all the scientific men, had ranked themselves on the one side or the other of the controversy growing out of it; and thus hardly a medical witness who was examined came to the case entirely unprejudiced. Again, the discovery of poison in the system has been in England, heretofore, we believe, deemed an essential link in the evidence necessary for conviction, and this was not only wanting in Palmer's case, but after more than one analysis no poison had been found. The scientific witnesses also usually gave evidence of their

opinion as to the cause of death from the symptoms testified to, as to the manner in which strychnine affects the system, and also as to the possibility of discovering it by analysis, after death. Now it is very evident that a witness may be perfectly competent to testify on one of these points, and his opinion on that be entitled to the greatest weight, when on the others it may be almost without value, and entitled to no weight whatever. Dr. Taylor, for instance, is a very eminent chemist, and his opinion on the possibility of discovering strychnine in the system deserves the most serious consideration. But when he comes to tell us of the manner in which strychnine affects the system, and of the symptoms by which it manifests itself, his testimony ought to weigh very slightly. He has never seen a case of tetanus in the human subject, and only administered strychnine to a few rabbits, less than half a dozen in twice as many years. Now all these points should have been very carefully and minutely considered in the instructions to the jury. They should have received the gravest and most cautious consideration of the bench, and the importance of weighing with the utmost caution the scientific evidence in the case should have been brought home to every jurymen. There seems to us to have been negligence and carelessness in this respect. And the verdict of the jury, though right in our opinion, was, we fear, a somewhat hasty one. A trial of twelve days, in which a vast multitude of complicated circumstantial evidence, and a quantity of perplexing and somewhat contradictory scientific testimony are introduced, would seem to require more than hour's deliberation for a verdict, and especially for a verdict which sentences a fellow-creature to a felon's death.

We have said we thought the verdict right. The evidence with regard to the symptoms and the manner of Cook's death and other deaths from strychnine, seem to us exceedingly strong; and a medical friend, in whose opinion we have great confidence, informs us that Cook's death, though not in medical parlance "a type case," cannot, it seems to him, be explained on any other theory than that he had taken strychnine. Gentlemen of attainments in chemistry have told us that strychnine can in all cases be discovered in the system, if a proper analysis is made. But they say the blood is the best place to search for it, and Dr. Taylor had none of Cook's blood; and they say also, that none of his first examination was for

the discovery of strychnine, and that it is by no means impossible that when he began to search for this, his previous experiments, and the tests already applied, had so altered the chemical condition of the parts sent him for analysis, that its discovery was no longer possible. To the testimony of the medical men are to be added the facts and circumstances developed by the other evidence. We have the motive in Palmer's pecuniary necessities, and the chance of relief which Cook's death would give. We find him with strychnine in his possession, and no explanation of its use. We have Cook's sudden death, with every appearance of death from strychnine, and Palmer's subsequent conduct—his attempt to bribe the post-boy, his presents to the coroner, his tampering with the postmaster, and numerous other circumstances, many of them trivial, but all pointing in one direction, and leading us inevitably to the conclusion, that William Palmer was guilty of the murder of John Parsons Cook.

NOTE.—Palmer was executed, but made no confession.

PALMER'S HEAD.

After the body had remained swinging dismally in the wind and rain the usual time, it was cut down and removed to the dead house, where Mr. Bridges commenced his preparations for taking a cast of the head. Before these operations were entered upon, Mr. Bridges, the phrenologist, explained to the high sheriff, under sheriff, chaplain, governor, and a number of the medical profession who had been admitted, the peculiar type of the murderer's head, pointing out the extreme predominance of secretiveness; his utter want of conscientiousness; and his defect in the higher reflective powers. Indeed, the selfish propensities predominated to an excess he (Mr. Bridges) had never before seen in any other criminal. The head, he explained, was not of the Rush, or Gleeson Wilson type, which compels the individual to the commission of outrages and violent murder, but the real type of the secret and subtle poisoner. A head of this class would sacrifice family, friends, and indeed a whole kingdom, to satisfy selfish objects. All protestations of innocence on the part of Palmer, he asserted, were more than counterbalanced by the criminal formation of the head; and he deemed it a matter of gratulation that the progress of such a one had been effectually arrested. Mr. Bridges then proceeded to take

a cast, first shaving the head, and proceeding in the usual mode of operation. The face, in its general formation and expression, is very much like Rush. Destructiveness is large, but secretiveness appears to be the great pivot on which the whole action of the brain worked.

EXCISION OF THE LIVER.

"A Hindoo, aged between 60 and 70, was in June last brought in, a distance of six miles, to Howrah, with a spear wound in the abdomen, about 3 inches above the umbilicus, and 2 inches to its right, through which a triangular portion of the liver protruded, of about the size and shape of the four fingers of the hand, lying side by side. The wound itself did not exceed an inch in length, and was completely choked up by the liver. The man stated that he had been stabbed in the dark about twelve hours previously, and that the liver came through the wound, as the spear was drawn out. It was added, that there had been very copious hemorrhage, but the liver itself was not wounded, and though the patient was in considerable pain, the pulse was very little depressed.

"My friend, Dr. M. Henderson, who was present, agreeing that it would be impossible to return the protrusion without enlarging the wound to the extent of several inches, it was resolved, rather than wait for the tedious process of sloughing, to remove it by knife.

"To prevent hemorrhage, a ligature was applied tightly round the base of the protrusion, which was then cut off. Nevertheless, two arterial twigs bled very freely, and it was found necessary to take them up, and a double ligature was also passed through the stump, and tied on either side, when all bleeding ceased. No attempt was made to return the portion of liver which still filled up the wound, as it was of course desirable to prevent all risk of blood or of bile being extravasated into the cavity of the abdomen. For a day or two the patient was rather low, and had slight irritative fever, and the bowels remained costive. These symptoms, however, yielded to a few doses of purgative medicine, and in nine days the ligatures came away along with a small slough of liver, the wound granulated and healed, and the man returned to his home in three weeks. No bilious discharge occurred from the granulating surface of liver. The portion of liver removed, after having lost its

blood, and being in spirits for some weeks weighed $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Its surface is uneven, though not torn, and it is probably a portion of the edge of the right lobe, from near the notch between it and the left."

"It is difficult to explain how so large a portion of liver could have protruded through so small a wound, even if allowance be made for the size of the wound being diminished by the contraction of the abdominal muscles, and for the protruded portion becoming congested."

"It is unnecessary here to allude to wounds of the abdomen generally, or of the liver in particular, (for in this case the liver does not seem to have been wounded,) or to the extraordinary recoveries from almost every variety of them. Such cases are innumerable. It has long been known, from the experiments of one of the Munros, that rabbits have suffered very little from having portions of their livers cut off. It was also known, that patients live for years after the loss of very considerable portions of liver by hepatic abscess, and may exist for months, with the whole liver converted into a mere cyst; but the actual removal of a considerable portion of the liver from the human subject, with so very little constitutional disturbance, even allowing for the patient being a native, is a fact of considerable interest in medicine and in physiology.

"I may add, that the patient complained of a good deal of pain when the surface of the liver was touched, but that cutting through its substance hardly caused him any. The old man appeared two months after, as prosecutor in his own case; he was in perfect health; there was a little puckering in of the skin about the wound, and the liver was evidently adherent beneath."*

*In Blanchard's "*Anatomia Practica Rationalis*," Amsterdam, 1688, is to be found the case of a soldier who was wounded by a sword in the hepatic region; the wound was succeeded by a profuse hemorrhage and deliquium: on the cessation of the hemorrhage, a morsel of the substance of the liver was removed by the forceps, and patient recovered after many threatening symptoms. At the end of three years he died of fever. On dissection, a small portion of the lower part of the wounded lobe of the liver was observed to be wanting; the other viscera were sound.

Professor Dunglison quotes a case from Dieffenbach's *Journal*, in which a boy fell on a knife, and a portion of the liver protruded. Without being aware of its nature the surgeon in attendance cut it off with his scissors; no bad effects followed. (*American Medic. Intelligencer*, vol. 1, p. 191.) The history of the second of these cases is imperfect, and in both the portion of removed liver seems to have been very small.

A MEDICAL VETERAN. — In the Cincinnati Medical Observer for July, there is a memoir of Reuben D. Mussey, M. D., at present Professor of descriptive and operative surgery in the Miami Medical College, who is seventy-six years of age. An admirable steel engraving of the doctor accompanies the biographical sketch of his professional labors. He is a native of Pelham, New Hampshire, and in early life was a pupil of the celebrated Prof. Nathan Smith, founder of the Medical School of Dartmouth College. Some of his surgical operations have been brilliant achievements. Dr. Mussey has a world-wide reputation for medical and surgical skill. Being in excellent health, and actively employed, the vigor of his mind, stored with many years of experience, gives peculiar interest to his lectures. Long may he live to enjoy the fruits of an unsullied reputation.

CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS.

Some Experiments in Electro-Physiology; by Prof. Matteucci, in a letter to Dr. Faraday, I think I have already told you that for some time past I have been making experiments in electro-physiology. Allow me now to communicate to you the results of my work.

I have lately succeeded in demonstrating and measuring the phenomenon which I have called *muscular respiration*. This respiration, which consists in the absorption of oxygen and the exhalation of carbonic acid and azote by living muscles, and of which I have determined the principal conditions and intensity compared with that of the general respiration of an animal, has been studied particularly on muscles in contraction. I have proved that this respiration *increases considerably* in the act of contraction, and have measured this increase.

A muscle which contracts, absorbs, while in contraction, a much greater quantity of oxygen, and exhales a much greater quantity of carbonic acid and azote than does the same muscle in a state of repose. A part of the carbonic acid exhales in the air, the muscle imbibes the other part, which puts a stop to successive respiration and produces *asphyxy of the muscle*. Thus a muscle soon ceases to contract under the influence of an electro-magnetic machine when it is enclosed in a small space of air; this cessation takes place after a longer interval of time if the muscle is in the open air, and much more slowly still if there be a solution of

potash at the bottom of the recipient in which the muscle is suspended. Muscles which have been kept long in vacuum or in hydrogen are nevertheless capable, though in a less degree, of exhaling carbonic acid while in contraction; this proves clearly that the oxygen which furnishes the carbonic acid exists in the muscle in a state of combination. According to the theories of Joule, Thomson, &c., the chemical action which is transformed, or which gives rise to heat, is also represented by a certain quantity of *vis viva*, or by an equivalent of mechanical work. I have therefore been able to measure the *theoretical work* due to the oxygen consumed, taking the numbers which I had found for muscular respiration during contraction, and in consequence the quantity of heat developed by this chemical action, and finally this *theoretical work* according to the dynamical equivalent of heat. I have compared this number with that which expresses the *real work* which is obtained by measuring the weight which a muscle in contraction can raise to a certain height, and the number of contractions which a muscle can perform in a given time. It results from this comparison, that the first number is somewhat greater than the second, and the heat developed by contraction ought to be admitted among the causes of this slight difference: these two numbers are therefore sufficiently in accordance with each other.

I have completed these researches by some new studies on *induced contraction*, that is to say, on the phenomenon of the irritation of a nerve in contact with a muscle in contraction. A great number of experiments lately made on the discharge of the torpedo, and on the analogy between this discharge and muscular contraction, have led me to establish the existence of an electrical discharge in the act of muscular contraction. The general conclusion to be drawn from these researches is, therefore, that the chemical action which accompanies muscular contraction develops in living bodies, as in the pile or in a steam-engine, heat, electricity, and *vis viva*, according to the same mechanical laws.

Allow me to describe to you briefly the only one of these experiments which can be repeated in a lecture, and which proves the principal fact of these researches, although it is limited to prove that muscles in contraction develop a greater quantity of carbonic acid than those in repose. Take two wide-mouthed glass phials of equal size, 100 or 120 cub. centims.; pour

10 cub. centims. of lime-water (eau de chaux) into each of these phials. Prepare ten frogs in the manner of *Galvani*, that is, reducing them to a piece of spinal marrow, thighs and legs without the claws, which are cut in order to avoid contact with the liquid in the phials. The cork of one of these phials is provided with five hooks, either of copper or iron, on which five of the prepared frogs are fixed. Through the cork of the other phial are passed two iron wires, bent horizontally in the interior of the phial; the other five frogs are fixed by the spinal marrow to these wires. This preparation must be accomplished as rapidly as possible, and both the phials be ready at the same instant, and great care taken to avoid the contact of the frogs with the sides of the phials or liquid. When all is in readiness, with a pile of two or three elements of Grove, and with an electro-magnetic machine such as is employed for medical purposes, the five frogs suspended on the two iron wires are made to contract. After the lapse of five or six minutes, during which time the passage of the current has been interrupted at intervals in order to keep up the force of the contractions, agitate gently the liquid, withdraw the frogs, close rapidly the phials, and agitate the liquid again. You will then see that the lime-water contained in the phial in which the frogs were contracted is much whiter and more turbid than the same liquid contained in the other phial in which the frogs were left in repose. It is almost superfluous to add, that I made the complete analysis of the air in contact with the frogs according to the methods generally employed.

WILD POTATOES IN NEW MEXICO AND WESTERN TEXAS.

We have received from Dr. A. J. Myer, U. S. A., through the Surgeon General, a detailed communication on the discovery in western Texas of what he takes to be the common potatoe (*Solanum tuberosum*, L.) in a wild state, accompanied with specimens of the tubers and of the whole plant neatly dried and prepared. Dr. Myer first detected the plant on and near the Rio Limpio, and afterwards ascertained that it was pretty widely diffused throughout all that region and into New Mexico. The tubers, though small, being rarely as large as a hickory nut, have been gathered, cooked and eaten by officers and soldiers, and they proved to be both palatable and innocent. It

naturally occurred to Dr. Myer that his discovery might be turned to useful account; that these wild potatoes would probably increase in size and improve in flavor under continued cultivation; and that, if the well-known potatoe-rot were owing, as many suppose, to an attack of minute Fungi, or to a general debility of constitution resulting from propagation for generation after generation by the tuber, and seldom renewed from seed, or from both these causes combined, the proper remedy would be to begin anew with a wild stock; and that these indigenous potatoes of our own country would furnish an excellent stock for the purpose, and one which might be expected to resist the disease for a long time, if not altogether.

Such, in brief, is the substance of Dr. Myer's commendable communication, made to his official superior, the Surgeon General, and by him offered for publication in this Journal.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CLIMATES OF CALIFORNIA.

The most wonderful phenomenon of the California climates, is the marked manner in which they are cut in two by no higher chain of mountains than the Coast Range. This range extends along the coast of California from latitude $34\frac{1}{2}$ to $41\frac{1}{2}$, and is so low, that snow collects during the winter only on a few of the highest peaks. Now, while the western side of this range has the cold summer above described, the valley on the east side is one of the hottest portions of the earth. This valley, through which flow, in opposite directions, the waters of the Sacramento and the San Joaquin, extends about 400 miles from north to south, with an average breadth of perhaps 60 miles, from the Coast Range on the west to the Sierra Nevada on the east. It is a very flat valley, much more level than the western prairies, and occupies the great portion of the interior of California. It has been quite difficult to obtain exposures of a thermometer which were unobjectional. In the cloth tents and stores which were in use in 1849 and '50, the temperature would range in the warm days from 115° to 120° . On the north side of a large tree, also in a wooden cabin covered with earth, a friend of the writer observed the mercury at 118° and 112° during many of the days of 1850. On the north side of a large two-story frame house, with but one house near, and that one several rods distant, the writer has observed the mercury at 109° . But Dr.

Haille at Marysville, by hanging his thermometer in a draft of air in the back part of his office, where it was shaded by high buildings around, succeeded in keeping the mercury down to 102° during the summer of 1852. The sun rises clear in the east, rolls up over the heads of the inhabitants, drying and scorching everything in sight, and sinks into the west — “one unclouded blaze of living light.” And this is repeated day after day, and month after month. The hottest time of day is about half-past five in the afternoon. The nights are cool; you need two or three blankets to sleep comfortably, even in the hottest part of the summer. A plate of butter set in a common wooden house, will be perfectly liquid at night, and entirely hard in the morning, and these changes will occur every twenty-four hours for months in succession.

The change from the cold climate of the coast to the heat of the valley is marvellous. You go on board a steamboat at San Francisco at four o'clock in the afternoon, and find the passengers, all dressed in winter clothing, flannels and overcoats, huddled around the stove in the cabin with its hot anthracite fire. The next morning at sunrise, you find yourself going up the Sacramento river, and, as your state-room is insufferably hot, you put on the thinnest summer clothing, and go out on the guards of the boat, oppressed with the heat, and the perspiration starting from your pores.

In the winter there is no perceptible difference in the weather throughout California, except the very small difference caused by the latitude, and the very great difference caused by the altitude. In the lowlands the climate is very similar to April in New England, or perhaps, it may be more nearly compared to our spring, from the middle of March to the middle of May. There is no snow, though frosts are frequent. Near San Francisco, peas are planted in October, and strawberries are to be had every day in the year. Still, ice has been known to form half an inch thick in a night. On the mountains, snow falls to a great depth. Indeed, the stories which are told of its depth are incredible, many persons having assured the writer that it would average ten feet. Nearly all the rains are with the wind from the south, probably caused by the simple cooling of the air in moving from a lower to a higher latitude. Occasionally, about once in a season, there is a rain with the wind from the north. The climate is remark-

ably serene. There are very few gales or high winds. In the winter it is generally calm. In the summer, in the interior, there is generally a very mild breeze, more than half of the time from the south; and, very unaccountably, the wind from this direction is generally cooler than the wind from the northwest. Probably the reason why there is no thunder and lightning, or so little, is, that there are no showers or clouds in the summer. That the sea breeze, with its accompanying dryness, does not continue through the winter, is probably attributable to the diminished force of the sun's rays in his withdrawal to the south.

DISCOVERY OF PALÆOZOIC FOSSILS IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

BY PROF. W. B. ROGERS.

(From a letter to J. D. Dana, dated Boston, August 13, 1856.)

You will, I am sure, be surprised as well as pleased by the news I am about to tell you. You are aware that the altered slates and grits which show themselves interruptedly throughout a good part of Eastern Massachusetts have, with the exception of the coal measures on the confines of this State and Rhode Island, failed hitherto to furnish geologists with any fossil evidences of a Palæozoic age, although from aspect and position they have been *conjecturally* classed with the system of rocks belonging to this period. Indeed the highly altered condition of these beds generally, traceable no doubt to the great masses of sienite and other igneous materials by which they are traversed or enclosed, would naturally forbid the expectation of finding in these any distinguishable fossil forms.

Lately, through the kindness of Peter Wainwright, Esq., of this city, I have been led to examine a quarry in the belt of silicious and argillaceous slate which lies on the boundary of Quincy and Braintree, about ten miles south of Boston, and to my great surprise and delight I found it to be a *locality of Trilobites*.

It appears that for several years past the owner of the quarry, Mr. E. Hayward and his family, have been aware of the existence of these so-called images in the rock, which from time to time they have quarried as ballasting material for wharves, but until now the locality has remained entirely unknown to science.

The fossils are in the form of casts, some of them of great size and lying at various levels

in the strata. So far as I have yet explored the rock, they belong chiefly if not altogether to one species, which on the authority of Agassiz, as well as my own comparison with Barrande's description and figures, is undoubtedly a *Paradoxides*. Of its specific affinities I will not now speak, further than to remark that the specimens agree more closely with Barrande's *P. spinosus* than with any other form.

As the genus *Paradoxides* is peculiar to the lowest of the Palæozoic rocks in Bohemia, Sweden, and Great Britain, marking the Primordial division of Barrande and the Lingular flags of the British Survey, we will probably be called upon to place the fossil belt of Quincy and Braintree on or near the horizon of our lowest fossiliferous group, that is to say, somewhere about the level of the Primal rocks, the Potsdam sandstone, and the Protozoic sandstone of Owen, containing *Dikelocephalus* in Wisconsin and Minnesota. *Thus, for the first time are we furnished with the data for establishing conclusively the Geological age of any portion of this part of ancient and highly altered sandstones, and, what gives further interest to the discovery, for defining in regard to this region the very base of the Palæozoic column as recognized in other parts of the globe.*

The newly discovered fossil is, I am satisfied, identical with the *Par. Harlani* described by Green in his monograph of North American Trilobites, from a specimen of *unknown locality* procured through Dr. Harlan from Mr. Alger some twenty-five years ago. I draw this conclusion from the close agreement of a nearly complete specimen of the Quincy Trilobite with the cast of *P. Harlani*, and from the identity of the rock as described by Green and at once recognized by Mr. Alger's experienced eye on seeing my collection of Quincy specimens.

In this connection I find in Barrande a remark which, at the same time that it is historically curious, has an interesting bearing on the specific affinities of our fossil. He observes, "We see in different collections, especially in that of the School of Mines and the British Museum, under the name of *Paradoxides Harlani*, from the United States, a cast of a Trilobite, which appears to us to be identical with *P. spinosus* of great size, such as found at Skrey in Bohemia."

It thus appears that the vagrant *Par. Harlani*, so long an obscure exile, has at last been restored to its native seat, to take a conspicu-

ous place in the most ancient dynasty of living forms belonging to the geology of New England.

The interest of this discovery of a locality of *Paradoxides* in our neighborhood is not a little heightened by the circumstance of its being the only instance, as I believe, in which forms of this genus have been found anywhere on the continent. Barrande after speaking of its restriction to Protozoic strata in Bohemia, Sweden, Wales, &c., has the following observations on this subject: "The presence of *Paradoxides* has not been satisfactorily proved in any other Silurian region, although this generic name has been applied to North American forms, *P. Boltoni*, and *P. Harlani*. The first of these is known to be a *Lichas*, and *we know nothing of the other*. The care with which Hall has described the Trilobites of the Lower Silurian rocks of the country in question is sufficient proof that he had not discovered any trace of *Paradoxides* at the time of publishing the first volume of the *Palæontology* of N. Y." I may add to this, that in no subsequent publication have I seen any reference to the finding of fossils of this genus in the rocks of this continent.

The occurrence of well preserved fossils among rocks so highly altered and so contiguous to great igneous masses as are the fossiliferous slates of Quincy, may well encourage us to make careful search in other parts of Eastern New England, where heretofore such an exploration would have been deemed useless. Although we cannot hope to build up the geological column of New England from the Protozoic base just established to the carboniferous rocks, supposing all the intervening formations to be represented in this region, we may at least succeed in determining by fossils hereafter discovered some of the principal stages in its structure, and thus relate its strata definitely to the great Palæozoic divisions of our Appalachian Geology.

The Quicksilver of California.—The exports of quicksilver from California, during the first quarter of the present year, amounted to 6056 flasks, and in the second to 5082 flasks, making a total to July 1st of 11,158 flasks of 75 pounds each. In this computation the exportation by the Chateau Palmer is not included, as that vessel was wrecked off the Heads. The principal portion of the above was, as usual, sent to China and Mexico, although some parcels went to South America, and a few hundred flasks to New York.

TAKING STRYCHNIA.

BY BENJ. HASKELL, M. D., ROCKPORT, MASS.

[Extracted from a recently published pamphlet of essays.]

Some eight or ten years since, I had a female patient who had been taking strychnia for paralysis of the inferior extremities, which had lasted five months. Two grains of the alkaloid were dissolved in two ounces of alcohol, and ten drops were taken, at first three times daily, with directions to increase the dose two drops every second day. When she had thus got up to fifty drops, I thought I could perceive some slight indications of the operation of the medicine, and directed her to reduce the dose to forty drops. She continued on in this way until she had finished the third bottle, having taken, in the course of about six weeks, six grains. On visiting her three days after this, I found that she was making up her mind that the medicine was doing her no good, and I had some difficulty in persuading her to try another bottle. Having at length overcome her objections, I returned home and sent her another two grains dissolved in tincture of camphor, instead of alcohol as before. No sooner had she swallowed the first dose, which was the same as that with which she had left off three days before, than she was taken with severe tetanic spasms. I was immediately sent for, and after administering an emetic, which operated quickly and favorably, gave her about three grains of opium, and left another similar powder, to be given in two hours afterwards if there was no abatement of the spasms.

This happened about 9, A. M. Being engaged in an obstetric case in another part of the town, two miles distant, it may be imagined that I left her with some degree of anxiety. At 3, P. M., I found time again to pay her a hurried visit. There was no change in the symptoms. She had taken six grains of opium without the least effect; and if I had not previously apprised her of the consequences she might expect to take place from the treatment, and had not, moreover, possessed the full confidence of my patient, I should have found my situation an unpleasant one.

There was no plan of treatment laid down in the books for such cases, nor antidote, at least, that I was aware of. Here, as in hydrophobia, empiricism was at fault. The first case could not be cured, because none had been cured before. I must either look on as a

passive spectator, in the hope that the spasms would wear themselves out, and run the risk of seeing my patient succumb to them, or invent a treatment for the occasion. My reasoning, which I mention for the benefit of those who contend that practical medicine never advances, except empirically, was in this wise: strychnine is the most powerful excitor of muscular spasms now known: tobacco is the most powerful allayer of spasmodic action also known,—and I resolved to meet Greek with Greek. But I was afraid then to leave my obstetric case long enough to carry the plan into effect. The double prescription of the morning was therefore renewed, and I again left. At half past ten in the evening, I found myself at liberty, and having procured some tobacco and a pipe with a gum elastic tube, lost no time in returning to my patient. The spasms appeared as frequent and severe as in the morning. She had taken, in the course of the day, as nearly as I could judge, twelve grains of opium without effect. The tube was now introduced into the rectum and passed through the sigmoid flexure into the colon. With the assistance of women, two pipes of tobacco smoke, making considerable allowance for waste, were passed through it. We had commenced on the third, when she expressed herself as feeling easier; after waiting some minutes and finding no return of the spasms, the tube was withdrawn. She soon fell asleep, and I went home without any feeling of uneasiness respecting the quantity of opium that she had taken, or the prostrating effects of the tobacco. On my return in the morning, I found that she had had a comfortable night, having been entirely free from spasm, and that the great object for which the strychnine was given was fully accomplished; every symptom of palsy having left her. There was, however, remaining a great irritability of the system to all sensitive impressions. Any sudden sound, a bright light, a flaw of wind such as would be made by the opening of the door, or the least touch, would occasion slight muscular contractions over the whole body. This state, so strikingly like the general condition of the system in hydrophobia, continued, though gradually subsiding, more than a week.

The case was interesting in several points of view. Was there a cumulative effect from the quantity previously taken? Was it the three days' interval, or the addition of the camphor, that made a smaller dose than that which she had been in the habit of taking, so suddenly active? Camphor has lately been proposed

as an antidote to this poison. Could not such an operation be reconciled with the idea of its increasing its activity in the manner prescribed? I have thought, in giving camphor with opium and other agents, that it seemed to make an addition, in some instances, to their peculiar operation. But I do not feel competent to speak decisively. Others may be in possession of facts which will enable them to throw light on these questions. The object that I have had in view in giving publicity to the case, is to illustrate the fact, that symptoms precisely of the character of hydrophobia, can be relieved by tobacco smoke. There is also considerable evidence to show that they have been relieved by lobelia, which, from its affinity to tobacco, is not improbable.*

In striking contrast with the mild, anti-spasmodic effects of the smoke, here witnessed, were the consequences of administering the infusion in a case of tetanus which came under my charge a few years afterwards. A small sized, but very muscular man, while partially intoxicated, crushed a glass tumbler with his hand, and wounded the space between the thumb and fore-finger. This piece of fool-hardiness, occurred in the forenoon. During the greater part of the day afterwards, he stood nearly up to his knees in the tide water, scrubbing the bottom of his fishing smack. Towards night, he complained of pain in the wound, and stiffness of the arm. At 10, P. M., I was called, and found the spasms extending up the arm to the shoulder, and soon across the breast to the other shoulder and arm. On examining the wound, it was found dry and ragged, and evidently without action. It was touched with lunar caustic, and a warm tobacco poultice was directed to be applied. Opium was given internally freely, and efforts were made to induce perspiration. By morning, the spasms had extended over the whole body, and were very violent, giving rise to complete opisthotonos. A scruple of dry tobacco was now infused in about a half pint of water, and given in enema. This produced total relaxation of the muscular system, with vomiting and purging, attended with a feeble pulse and cold perspiration. As he recovered from this state, the spasms returned, and the same enema was repeated with the same effects. After some four or five such repetitions, I began to feel anxious about the prostrating effects of the remedy,

and lessened the dose about one third; but this did not control the spasms. We were therefore obliged to return to the former quantity; and I soon found them lessening in frequency, and by the third day from their commencement, he was decidedly convalescent. I now looked at the wound, and found it suppurating kindly. For the last twenty-four hours, a common emollient poultice had been applied, instead of the tobacco one, he having complained that this last gave him pain.

In these two cases, we see illustrated the different effects of the same remedy, according to its mode of administration. Were I to have another case like the last, I should use the smoke in preference to the infusion. In all the cases of severe colic, strangulated hernia, &c., that I have had for the past twelve years, I have made this the last resort. And I believe, that were it adopted within any reasonable time, not a case of strangulated hernia would ever require an operation. And, in not a single instance, have I seen anything like the prostrating effects which were witnessed in the above case of tetanus.

The application of the nitrate of silver was made to the wound on the principle of concentrating action on the part. Tetanus occurs, when a certain degree of irritation exists, which fails to induce a sufficient restorative action in the part, and which appears, in consequence, to be reflected, as it were, on the nerves. Quite an amount of evidence might be collected from the journals and other sources, tending to show the power of the nitrate to allay, when applied to an irritated surface, the spasmodic action which appears to be a reflex of that irritation. During the present season, I have applied it twice to punctured wounds; one penetrating to the knee-pan, from the iron tooth of a rake, and the other from a rusty nail, in the foot; in both of which premonitory symptoms of tetanus were urgent; and, although other means were also used at the same time, yet the quick subsidence of the symptoms after the application, gave reason to suppose that it had the chief share in bringing about this result.

The nitrate of silver is the best application to the wound immediately after the bite. It is far superior to suction, not only in this class of cases, but also in the bites of venomous animals generally. The bite of the rattlesnake gives rise to a malignant erysipelas, a local disease, and should be attacked by local means.

* See an article in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. 40, p. 101, on a method of treatment of Hydrophobia with lobelia by Dr. Benaiah Sanborn, of Sanbornton, N. H.

ON THE USE AND ABUSE OF CHEMICAL BATHS.

BY G. HUFF, M. D., LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY.

When we consider the deleterious effects of mercury upon the constitution at times, especially when its use has been injudiciously persevered in for some time in small and often-repeated doses, in certain constitutional diseases in which mercury is commonly resorted to as a specific, we are led to fear that it often proves to be a greater evil than the disease itself. And if we take into view the facility and certainty of the galvanic action in the elimination of the deleterious metals from the human system, and its practical use to the community, its application must rank as one of the most valuable discoveries in modern therapeutics. I have observed, however, through life, that the more valuable any discovery to society, the greater its abuse; and in no case has this been more fully verified in the healing art within the last half-century, than in the transference of metals from the human system. This branch of the profession is left entirely too much in the hands of charlatans.

Facts proving that deception has been practised to a great extent have come within my own observation; and recently the reputed experience of the editor of the *Louisville* (daily) *Journal*, in the supposed efficacy of chemical baths, and more especially his proposed test of their action by means of ammonium, have caused great sensation in this part of the country. These circumstances led me to make an experiment with a rabbit, an animal that never had taken mercury in any form; and I herewith forward you the result, viz., a copper plate, a portion of which is nicely coated with a light metal generally known as tin. By the mercenary, a coating like this is continually palmed off for mercury taken from the system of those who have supposed themselves surcharged with that metal. Those persons who practise such feats of legerdemain, invariably use metallic bath-tubs, the same as was done by myself in the experiment with the rabbit, and the coating of light metal upon the piece of copper is simply a deposition of tin from the tub; and the process was nothing else than electroplating, with a rabbit in the solution.

Then, again, the experience of the editor referred to proves nothing, as there was no evidence of mercury having been extracted. The sulphide of ammonium, the test relied on by him, will give a black precipitate, with lead,

copper, bismuth, tin, and lastly, iron, provided the free acid be neutralized, which may be done in this experiment by adding excess of sulphide of ammonia, and then the black sulphide of iron will be precipitated as well as with mercury. The precipitate of mercury in a *dilute* solution turning instantaneously black is not characteristic of that metal, as may be tested by any person by merely putting one drop of a solution of corrosive sublimate into a tumblerful of water, and having stirred it, then adding a few drops of sulphide of ammonia, when it will be seen that the precipitate changes from a light-yellow quite rapidly to black; but unless the black sulphide be reduced, and mercury obtained from it in a metallic form, the test is not conclusive. Had a little of the supposed "black sulphide of mercury" been dried and mixed with cyanide of potassium, or carbonate of soda, and heated to redness in the sealed end of a small glass tube, the mercury, if present, would have been sublimed in metallic form in the cold portion of the tube. But it does not appear that this was done, and consequently there is no conclusive evidence that mercury was obtained from his system, but, on the contrary, he was probably deceived. The black sulphide might have been either the protosulphide of tin, or of iron, which change may take place under the following circumstances:

1st. If a patient be placed in a metallic bath-tub of copper or iron tinned, containing water with some hydrochloric acid, with a bright plate of copper under his feet, and the negative pole connected with it, and the positive pole with the bathing-tub, in the course of fifteen minutes or less after the battery is put in action, the copper plate will be completely coated with tin, save the portion that was covered with his feet; and if a tumblerful of the solution of the bath be tested with a few drops of sulphide of ammonium, it will give a black precipitate of protosulphide of tin; which it would not have done previous to the battery having been put in action.

2d. The same effect will be produced if the patient has the negative pole in his hands, with his feet upon a polished plate, *it being insulated*, and the positive pole in contact with the bathing-tub. The person in connection with the negative pole merely serves as an electrode to the plate upon which a deposition of metal (tin) is wanted for deception. This experiment may be made very readily by any person having a battery of sufficient power. Per-

sons in connection with a battery are in this way led to believe that the metal thus deposited upon the plate beneath their feet passed from their system, as they felt during the process (of electroplating) as if they were "pierced with ten thousand needles." This would answer a very good purpose if such persons would recover from their infirmities in consequence of their belief. But, alas for the poor dupes! they remain without benefit. I am acquainted with a person that has reaped an abundant harvest within the last seven months by such duplicity. And I fear, as a general thing, the profession is not as well posted in *electro-chemistry* as they should be; as I have known some physicians to witness the *modus operandi* as aforesaid, and supposed the deposit of tin upon copper was the "Simon pure" from the human system.

3d. If a zinc bathing-tub be used under the same circumstances as the preceding, the same effect upon a polished plate will follow, and the solution will give a blackish precipitate, which is owing to the iron always being present in the commercial zinc, which latter, when pure, gives from its neutral solution a white precipitate. It is always necessary to add the sulphide of ammonium in slight excess to neutralize the acid of the bath, as the iron will not precipitate in acid solutions. If there is much organic matter present in an acid bath, the sulphide of ammonium will give a dirty sulphur precipitate.

It is certain that very few persons in any community are aware that tin can be eliminated in solution from a bath-tub, and deposited upon a plate of copper within the said tub; hence the credulity of the public is taxed by those who are greedy of gain. In order to manage fairly and effectually those persons who suppose themselves surcharged with mercury, all metallic bath-tubs should be dispensed with, and those only should be used which are made of a non-conducting material, such as porcelain, stone, glass, or marble. A simple porcelain foot-tub is as good a utensil as can be used for the purpose, as it is not at all necessary to immerse the whole person; the immersion of the feet in only a few inches of the solution being all that is required for the process of transferring metals from the human system.

It is truly unfortunate that the medical profession should be so prejudiced against other modes of treating diseases than such as they learned in early life, just as if science is not progressive. If such prejudices did not exist, the public would not suffer so much by empiri-

cism; and if they patronize men without science, it is certain that they have lost confidence in legitimate practice.

COMMUNICATIONS.

CLERICAL HEALTH.

NUMBER II. BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Loss of Health—Study under Improper Stimulants and at Improper Times—Relaxation necessary—Cicero—Not Study soon after Eating, nor late at Night—Clergyman's Sore Throat—Ascribed to Various Causes—Disease of the Throat only Symptomatic—Its Real Cause—The Symptoms—Where Seated—Local Treatment of Little Use—The Sick often in Error as to their Disease.

What are some of the principal causes of the loss of Clerical Health? These are not all of one kind; nor, do they all spring from the same source.

The first cause of the loss of clerical health, which we shall name, is, *study at unseasonable hours and under the excitement of stimulants.*

We need not here speak of the intimate and reciprocal influence which exists between the mind and body. This is too well known to require repetition. Nor, do we apprehend that, health is often lost *by too much study.* The health of *German* students is rarely affected by study; though, on an average, they study quite as diligently, and more hours of the twenty-four than we do. But, they take good care of the *house* for the sake of the *tenant* which inhabits it: and *they carefully observe intervals and hours of relaxation.* These are as necessary to health, as food and drink. Cicero, who was feeble in his youth, before he learned the means of preserving health, or travelled from Rome to Greece, to strengthen his physical powers, in the Gymnasium of the latter, in his oration for the poet, Archias, has the following passage, which gives us a clue to the manner in which he relaxed his mind: "You will, doubtless ask, Gracchus, the reason of my being so delighted with this man? It is because he furnishes me with what relieves my mind and charms my ears, after the fatigue and noise of the forum. Do you imagine that I could possibly plead, every day, on such a variety of subjects, if my mind were not cultivated with *science*? Or, that it could bear being stretched to such a degree, if it were not sometimes unbent by *amusement.*" By *science*, this great man, undoubtedly, meant that fund of knowledge, which he had treasured up for the discharge of the duties of his professional life; and by *amusement*, those poetic effusions, which such men as Archias sent forth. We have

here, the secret of Cicero's accomplishing so much, and verifying his prediction in another place, that, "he was writing for the latest posterity."

It is no time to study soon after eating. This will be fully shown when we come to speak of the process of digestion. It is sufficient to say at present, that the mind requires rest, while the digestive apparatus is discharging its peculiar functions. There are many clergymen who spend the week, till near its close, in other duties; and, as late as Friday, betake themselves to study to prepare for the Sabbath. They feel that their "full tale of brick" must be rendered, "straw," or "no straw." Hence the intellect is overtaken, while the physical man is neglected.

In the midst of his study, the minister is called to dinner, swallows it in hot haste, scarcely aware whether he is eating or writing; and, as though the hand of necessity were upon him, without allowing a moment for the repose of his physical man, hastens back to the study. The hour for supper arrives, and the same course is repeated. Amidst the ringing of the door-bell, and numerous interruptions, which serve only to perplex, night has overtaken him, and the sermons are not finished. The labor grows upon his hands. The subject is cumulative. He cannot curtail, criticise, and trim. In a word, he *must* make a *long* sermon, because he has not time to make a *short* one.

The study is continued to a late hour of the night. Now, no man can think intensely, without the flow of more blood to the brain, than takes place at other times. By keeping up this determination of blood to the brain, for hours, this great central organ becomes *congested*. An excess of excitability obtains in it, and, it is not possible that so important an organ, the acknowledged seat of the superiority of man over the whole animated world; the residence of consciousness; the throne of intellect; of reason, memory, judgment; the fountain from which every passion, and every feeling, and every manifestation of human intellect flow, can be thus affected; thus *abused*, without the whole system's participating in the injury.

While these operations are going on in the brain; while too much of the vital fluid is collected there, the rest of the system is proportionally deprived of *its* due share; hence, from want of this natural stimulus, the liver, the great wheel of all the digestive apparatus, with

the whole alimentary canal, becomes torpid, and a long train of nervous, dyspeptic, and hypochondriacal complaints is the result. To hasten on, and perpetuate this abnormal state of things, unfortunately and strangely, the physical appetite is often in an inverse ratio to the intellectual; and, with the love of study, there is frequently associated great debility of the digestive organs. The weary brain can no more sleep, than the overstrained muscle can be quiet. But of *sleep*, we may speak hereafter.

The sensation, thus induced, affects every part of the body, and frequently the poor sufferer imagines that he is laboring under incurable disease. When such an idea has taken possession of the mind, it is not easily dislodged from the imagination. Argument only deepens the impression.

There is no remedy for this state of things but for the professional man to do his work "in season," and for the wife to scour out the *lamp*, and allow no more oil to be put into it.

Night-study ruins many constitutions, by keeping up a chaos of impressions upon the brain, during the succeeding sleep, if that can be called sleep, which is constantly interrupted by incoherent dreams and half-waking trains of thought. The brain must have rest, or perpetually overloading it with blood will destroy its energy.

Another cause of excitement, under which study is improper, is that of *narcotics* or *stimulants*. We say, narcotics or stimulants, because most of these are the same, the first effect being to stimulate or excite; the second, to render the system sedative, or narcotized.

The effects of all the narcotic poisons on the animal economy are analogous; some being more rapid in their operation than others; some causing convulsions; some dilating, and others contracting, the pupils of the eye. Their *first* effect (and alcohol is included among them) is to *excite* nervous energy. They pour fresh oil into nature's exhausted lamp; sharpen mental energy, and dissipate sorrow. The "wise man" perfectly understood the principle of their operation, when he said, "Give strong drink to him that is ready to perish, and wine to him that is of a heavy heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his sorrow no more." Under their influence, the mind acts powerfully. Wit unfurls her proudest banner. Fancy and imagination, fully aroused, luxuriate with unfettered license; and the poet and the orator pour forth their sub-

limest strains, and utter their grandest conceptions; visions of unearthly joy light up the countenance.

But all this soon gives place to stupor, and failure of both mind and body. The statesman who never spoke till he had warmed his powers of eloquence, and the poet, who would never sing, till they had drank of the intoxicating cup; and the minister who would neither write nor preach, till he had taken his pill of opium, or his potation of wine or brandy; and who then spoke with the power of a Cicero, or sung with the muse of Orpheus, or preached with the eloquence of Apollos; all found that this was so much detracted from the real powers of life; and rued the day when, they drank of the poisoned chalice, or tasted the Cirean cup, by the contents of which, reason was floated from the capital; the powers of intellect swamped, and the health of the body prostrated.

It may appear to some that *clerical* health is never injured by such means. *It is.* Even strong tea or coffee (though these are comparatively innocent), taken with but little food, may unnaturally excite any man of nervous temperament; and he ought never to study under such influence. The stimulus alone, without study, is quite enough. But, as I shall speak of some of the narcotics again, I will say no more of them in this place.

Such are some of the *times*, at which, and *influences*, under which no professional man ought to study, if he would preserve health.

Clergymen, of course, are liable to all the diseases that other men are. But every class and profession of men are peculiarly liable to some one disease more than to others. "The clergyman's Sore Throat" is a term which has been applied to men of their profession, as peculiarly descriptive of a disease to which they are subject. Not, however, because this disease is confined to them; for it is not. Others are, also, subject to it; such as singers, lawyers, merchants, shoe-makers, and teachers. Almost all the classes who are free from it are farmers and sailors; and, it is occasionally, met with even in these.

I have heard many reasons given for the great prevalence of this disease among clergymen; such as "wearing high cravats," frequently "using cold water, while preaching;" "speaking in damp, underground vestries;" "and speaking too much and too loud."

Now, some of these *may* have contributed to the development of this disease; but in my

opinion, it is not often to be ascribed to any one cause alone, but to several causes combined. Many who are subject to it, have some *humor* in the "blood," which Moses, one of the best physiologists who ever lived, has informed us, "is the life of the flesh." This humor, (call it by what name you please,) locates itself, or is deposited, by this ever-circulating fluid, the blood, upon any organ, or apparatus of the body which is much used, and consequently, often filled with blood. The vessels of the throat are thus filled, when we speak long and loud, as we have formerly said, the brainis, when we think long and intensely.

In this respect, long and loud speaking does tend to develope disease of the throat.

Clergymen might learn a profitable lesson by hearing such men as Doctors Jacob Bigelow, and John Ware, lecture. In neither of these men, both eminent instructors in medical science, and whose lectures are never wanting in thought, would they ever witness anything like that general excitement and loudness of voice which most pulpit orators consider so indispensable to give effect to their preaching.

But there is a remote cause, back of any immediately exciting one, which lays a foundation for the disease now under consideration. In fact, the trouble in the throat is not often the real disease of the sufferer; but only one of the many phases, by which, the disease manifests itself. The disease, itself, is some fault of the digestive organs. They do not perform their proper functions well. Indeed, there are but few cases of *consumption*, in which the difficulty does not primarily commence in the organs of digestion; and hence, in this disease physicians, generally, since they have addressed their remedies to these organs, and pursued the *sustaining* rather than the *depleting* course, have found their patients oftener recover, or live longer, even when they at last die. A defect in digestion soon causes a diseased, or depraved state of the whole system, and makes consumption just what the celebrated Dr. Rush called it, "a disease all over."

The liver and its secretions first become disordered; and this arises, partially, from want of out-of-door exercise; partially, from eating unsuitable food, or suitable food at improper times, and in undue quantity; but more especially, from anxiety and perplexity of mind.

For the want of that gentle out-door exercise, which throws the blood to the extremities, the hands and feet become cold; and from a want of circulation in the extremities, the blood

is retained in the large vessels in the viscera, till they become *congested*. Soon after the ordinary exercise of speaking, the throat begins to suffer. The mucous follicles and the glands become irritated. Often, the first trouble is *high up* in the throat, and the sensation, immediately after speaking, is of something there, which must be swallowed, or, as though *the throat had been scraped*. Sometimes the trouble is *lower down*, in the larynx, or on the vocal chords, where the voice is formed, and then, a degree of roughness of the voice, and of hoarseness upon speaking, is perceptible. Sometimes, the whole tube, called the *trachea*, is in a congested, irritated, or ulcerated condition; and, sometimes, the difficulty is still lower in the bronchial tubes, after they bifurcate, or leave the trachea to go to each lung. When this last is the case, there is usually some cough and expectoration.

I have said above, that anxiety and perplexity of mind are the remote and most common cause of this disease. This statement, I trust, I shall fully verify before I conclude these numbers. Suffice it to say, at present, that the ancients considered disease of the liver, or *biliousness* (to use a common phrase) as synonymous with *choleric* or *wrathy*. Now, I do not mean to say, or imply, that clergymen are more *choleric* than other men. But this is meant, to wit, that the peculiar trials of these men, at the present day, do give rise to a train of emotions and perceptions in the mind, which seriously interfere with the proper secretions of the body, and thus lay a foundation for diseased digestion and nervousness, which is an almost certain prelude to the sore throats of clergymen.

Though in this disease, local or topical applications may often prove serviceable, in conjunction with other medical treatment, yet the patient had better do nothing than to rely on these alone. I have known persons go the whole round of this *burning* with caustic, (as they call it) and other acrid and astringent applications, and still, grow worse. Sometimes a patient of this description presents himself, who has been so completely saturated with *nitrate of silver*, that his skin has taken on that peculiar *tinge*, which is neither that of the white, black, nor red man, but a combination of the dirty color of all of them, ("a mark" as indelible as that "set upon Cain") and, without receiving any benefit, or removal of the disease. While a little good advice, as to the proper management of the mind, in avoid-

ing excitement and anxiety; and of the body, as to air, exercise, and diet; with, perhaps, a very little medicine addressed to the digestive organs, would have set all right, and soon have given to the poor sufferer renewed health and vigor. In these remarks, I would not be understood, as not sufficiently appreciating *topical applications*, or *inhalations* of appropriate medicinal substances into the "Air Passages." All that is intended, is, that they do not reach the whole case. The real origin of the difficulty lies still deeper, and one might as well expect to remedy the tree whose roots and trunk were diseased, by lopping off a few of the dead and dying twigs, as to remove this disease by any mere local or topical treatment. If it were a mere local trouble, caused by speaking alone, and confined to the throat, such treatment might be sufficient; but as it is not, some other remedy is demanded.

Perhaps, there is no one thing in which the sick are more deceived than in regard to the origin or character of their disease. A young man, a student, of slender frame, very nervous, with tremors, and unable to apply himself to study, recently called for medical advice. His first inquiry was, "What was the matter with him? Why was he so nervous, timid, and trembling? Why could he not apply his mind to study, as formerly?"

The symptoms indicated an excessive use of alcohol, or of some narcotic poison. But he said, he used no spirits, and took no opium. To the question, Do you use tobacco? he answered, "Yes." When asked how much, he said, "A great deal;" and to the inquiry *how* he used it, he answered, "Both by chewing and smoking." Here was developed the whole cause of his disease. The excessive use of this narcotic, acting upon a youthful and naturally delicate frame, conjoined with his sedentary habits, had produced the whole difficulty. Yet, he never once thought that this narcotic poison was the cause of his trouble.

A clergyman of this Commonwealth called one day, and said, "He had some difficulty about the throat, and did not know but he was threatened with consumption." He was told, he was in more danger of dying of apoplexy. He was "thick set," fleshy, short-necked, and every way formed for apoplexy; and within a month from that time, he did die in an apoplectic fit. Such cases verify the above remark, that persons rarely consider the true origin of their disease, or what it is.

SUFFOLK MEDICAL SOCIETY — MONTHLY MEETING.

[Reported for the Medical World.]

MESSRS. EDITORS : — I send you for insertion in your new journal the following sketch of the doings of the *Suffolk District Medical Society*, if you please to publish it. This Society, at their monthly meeting, held Sept. 27th, (your readers at a distance may be pleased to learn,) comprises all the members of the *Massachusetts Medical Society* who reside in the County of Suffolk. The whole number of members of this Society, according to a Catalogue now lying before me, published in 1855, is 236. It numbers now, probably, 250, as by the Secretary's record of names added during the last six months, there were 6. Of the whole number belonging, 25 members were present at this meeting, and this was increased beyond the usual number, on account of *business*. Dr. Bowditch, the Vice President, was in the chair. The Secretary, Dr. L. Parks, occupied the first half hour in reading copious notes of the last monthly meeting, a large proportion of which were remarks by Dr. H. R. Storer. The next article which claimed the attention of the meeting, was a written document from Dr. H. R. Storer, (read by the Secretary, Dr. S. being absent,) describing a case of twins, to which he was called in consultation with Dr. Hobbs. It represented that the woman had been left by Dr. H., sometime in the night, for him to attend another obstetrical case; and, when he returned to see her in the morning, she had been sometime dead.

Dr. Cabbot exhibited a morbid specimen of a woman's breast, which he had excised.

Dr. Ayer spoke of several cases of croup which he had recently seen, and asked what the members of the profession considered the best emetic in such cases. Dr. Homans, *Sen.*, remarked at great length that he employed calomel and ipicac, chiefly. He also spoke of alum, &c. He said, in the early part of his practice, the sub-sulphate of mercury was extensively used, to which medicine Dr. Ayer had alluded.

Dr. Cornell said, some ten years ago he saw an account of a number of cases of croup, in which the emetic given consisted of equal parts of ipicac, sanguinaria and alum, in doses of two or three grains of each, to young children, and increased in quantity in proportion to the age of the patient. He had tried this

compound, and believed it would answer all the ends that could be attained by any emetic. Dr. Bowditch remarked that he had found calomel and ipicac to work as well as any emetic in cases of croup. He also spoke favorably of the local application of nitrate of silver; in which opinion, he was joined by others.

At nine o'clock, the President announced that, at a recent meeting for business, no quorum was present, and that that meeting had been adjourned to this hour.

The first business was to hear a report of a committee, upon a motion offered sometime since, by Dr. E. B. Moore, that a certain portion of new members should be chosen at each election among the old members, as *councillors*. This had been referred to a committee consisting of Drs. Jacob Bigelow, John Ware and E. B. Moore. Dr. Bigelow being absent, Dr. Moore read the report, the substance of which was, that *no change* be made in the course of electing councillors. The report was accepted and adopted, it is presumed upon the old adage that "practice makes perfect;" and consequently, those who have always been councillors, know how to do the business better than *novices* would.

The course pursued, of always electing the same men as councillors, and usually sending the same as delegates to the American Association, and kindred movements, it is presumed, accounts for the fact that, out of some 250 members, usually from 15 to 25 attend these "monthly meetings for medical improvement." The Society upon these matters seems to be a very *harmonious family circle*. It voted this very evening against choosing a committee by nomination at large, to nominate officers for the next year. It is amusing, not to say ludicrous, to witness the *fraternal feeling* which prevails. "How pleasant 't is to see," &c.

It is no marvel that not more than one-tenth of the members attend these monthly meetings.

MEDICUS.

Epilepsy.—It has been accidentally discovered in France, that persons afflicted with epilepsy, when in fits, can be instantly restored to health by throwing over them black silk. If true, that is the most important discovery that has been made since the commencement of the present century. The experiment is simple, and can certainly do no injury.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Moonlight on the Eyes.—Says an Oriental traveller,—“The effect of the moonlight on the eyes in this country, (Egypt,) is singularly injurious. The natives tell you, as I afterwards found they did in Arabia, to always cover your eyes when you sleep in the open air. It is rather strange that the passage in the Psalms — ‘The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night,’—should not have been thus illustrated, as the allusion seems direct. The moon here really strikes and affects the sight, when you sleep exposed to it, much more than the sun; a fact of which I had a very unpleasant proof one night, and took care to guard against afterwards. Indeed, the sight of a person who should sleep with his face exposed at night, would soon be impaired or utterly destroyed.”

We have travelled extensively in Egypt, but never witnessed any thing like the foregoing account.

Forty-nine Years in Bed.—An English paper, the Doncaster Gazette, in announcing the death of William Sharpe, at Werlds, says that he went to bed in 1807, and never got out of it till he died there in 1856—a still life of 49 years, passed in a chamber scarcely nine feet square, the window of which had not been raised for the last 38 years—and passed uninterruptedly in bed. When he was thirty he went one bright morning to the church to be married. His affianced came not—her father having an invincible repugnance to Mr. William Sharpe as a son-in-law. The mortified groom went home, undressed, got into bed, pulled the blankets over his head, and for forty-nine years obstinately refused to get up, and clothe himself and go to work. It is remarkable that he was never seriously ill, during this marvellously protracted incubation over his shame. He was sick for but a week before his death. His body was perfectly sound, in spite of its great age and great abuse.

Remarkable Family.—A paper in Birmingham, Conn., publishes the following:

Residing within a stone's throw of our office is an old lady—Mrs. Poll Beeman—a history of whose family presents the most striking instance of prolonged life that we ever knew or heard of. She is now in the ninety-second year of her age. The decease of her partner, Tracy Beeman, occurred but a short time since. He

was two years her senior, and they had lived together in the same farm-house sixty-nine years. They had a family of nine children, the eldest of whom is now seventy-three, and was married when she was fourteen! Of the grandchildren there are now forty-nine, the oldest of whom is aged fifty-six years. There are also one hundred and fifty-six great-grandchildren, and eighteen great-great-grandchildren! A few are dead, but the family seems blessed with an iron constitution, and most of them are yet living and well. We doubt if there is another case in this country where a venerable mother can call two hundred and thirty of her lineal pedigree around her thanksgiving dinner table.

Dreams.—A curious piece of testimony was given before a coroner's jury in Shelby county, Ky., recently. Harrison Stratton testified that he dreamed, three nights in succession, about seeing a beautiful dead child in a certain place. After the third recurrence of the dream, he was so much impressed with the circumstance that he took a friend and looked under a stone, and there found the dead infant, just as it had appeared in his dreams. The child had evidently been murdered.

An Aged Negro.—The Shreveport, Louisiana paper, records the following death of the old black man Jim, usually known as Dr. Jim. He died on Saturday morning, the 19th inst., aged one hundred and twenty-four years, three months, and twenty-five days. He was born December 24, 1731, in Fredericksburg, Va., as the slave of Capt. John Carter, who served as an officer in the Revolutionary War. Jim was the body-servant of Capt. Carter and others through the whole period of the Revolution, was well acquainted with Gen. Washington and with most of the other distinguished generals of the war, and was at Yorktown and witnessed the last decisive struggle for independence.

Swallowing Pins and Needles.—Miss H. Davis, of Troy, a young lady of estimable character, while passing hurriedly to an adjoining room, swallowed a pin and a needle, which she had carelessly put into her mouth. The needle became fixed in the oesophagus, about four inches down the throat, causing considerable pain and swelling in its vicinity. Efforts to remove it were unavailing. After the fourth day the swelling became so great as to close up the passage to the stomach, thus preventing entirely her swallowing even liquids for eight days. Her strength, in the meantime, was

sustained by nutritious injections and the inunction of oils. She had passed two pins up to this time. On the twelfth day an abscess broke, greatly relieving her, and permitting her to swallow; subsequently, two other small abscesses gathered and broke. She has since passed five more pins and two needles. No accurate history of the swallowing of any except the first pin and needle can be obtained. She now has a good prospect of recovery.

United Living Children. — On the 4th of April, 1855, one of the rarest cases of double formation occurred in the St. Petersburg Foundling Hospital, Russia—namely, two girls growing together by the skulls—which still live, and so far appear to be in good health. Of all the cases of this kind hitherto known, (of which there are seven,) the union of the two individuals was never of that kind to bring the face of one child directly opposite the face of the other. These twins are so united that if the middle line of the face of one child be prolonged from the nose, this would strike upon the ear of the other. Through the mobility of the necks the two children really lie in a straight line, one girl lying on the back, the other on the side, and thus they sleep. The face of one child is quite symmetrical as far as the forehead, and it is first in the formation of the skull that want of symmetry appears. In the face of the other the right half is much shortened, and the eye of this side opens less than the other. The two children possess a perfectly independent existence from each other, as relates to sleeping, waking, want of food, &c. The one sleeps quietly, while the other takes nourishment or looks about. Common sensibility does not appear to exist, since in cases of this kind the brain and nerves of each individual are preserved distinct. Not so always with the blood-vessels. Once, one child screaming loud, awoke its sister. The face of the screaming child became suffused and reddened deeply, while the other was still asleep. Then the face of the other began to redden and swell, and it was only after this that it opened its eyes. The features of the two children, especially of the one whose face is not shortened, are very pleasing. The physicians of the Foundling promise to observe this case more fully and publish the results.

Cancer. — A Mr. H. G. Catlett relates the following dreadful case in a New York paper, of his own condition, which was happily relieved. The disease originated *upon* the cheek

bone, near the outer corner of my right eye, and continued to *spread upon the bone* before developing itself upon the surface. Dr. Gilbert put me under treatment, at Memphis, on the 23d September, 1852. The raw surface was then rather larger than a dollar, but extended nearly over the entire side of my face *upon the bone*. The doctor took out my eye, removed all the flesh and the entire surface of the cheek and jaw-bone from the eyebrow to my gums; and from my ear to my nose, and the roof of my mouth, two openings were made through into my nose; all of my jaw teeth, a part of the eyebrow, and the entire socket bone of the eye, were removed, and all without the use of the knife. There has been no appearance of disease since April last; and I have every hope and belief that it has been completely eradicated. I have had examination made recently by eminent physicians and surgeons, who could discover no appearance of remaining disease.

Inhumanity of a Step-mother. — A recent trial before the Hardin (Ky.) County Court has developed a systematic course of cruelty by a Mrs. Hubbard, toward her step-daughter, a girl of thirteen years, that exceeds anything of which we have ever read. It appears that for two years past, the young girl has been subject to constant dyspepsia, and to occasional convulsions, with the most excruciating pain in her stomach. Recently she vomited up thirty-three pins of various sizes, and five needles issued from her side. This led to an investigation, in the course of which the girl stated that her mother, assisted by another woman, had at different intervals thrown her down and compelled her to swallow pins and needles. Since the girl's stomach has been relieved of the pins her general health is rapidly improving.

Longevity of Clergymen. — Hall's Journal of Health states that, of eighty clergymen who died in the year 1855, one-half had passed threescore and ten; thus confirming the opinions of statisticians, that theologians are the longest lived of all the members of the human family.

Dyspepsia Bread. — Three quarts of unbolted wheat-meal; one quart of soft warm water; one gill of fresh yeast; one gill of molasses; one teaspoonful of saleratus. This will make two loaves, and should remain in the oven, at least two hours. It will need from eight to twelve hours to rise.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 8, 1856.

TO THE MEDICAL PUBLIC.

For more than a quarter of a century the senior editor of this publication was intimately associated with the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal; and fifty consecutive octavo volumes of that work are permanent memorials of unceasing devotion to the interests and prosperity of the Medical profession of this country. In leaving it, to commence a new enterprise, embracing a wider range and more liberal sentiments, in regard to the various sentiments now prevailing on the subject of Medical Science, no ancient friendship has been disturbed, or unkind feelings generated.

With these introductory observations, an experience of many years induces those engaged in the service of this periodical, to hope for strong encouragement, since nothing shall be wanting on their part to meet the expectations of those who become its patrons.

Although educated to have entire confidence in the old school of medicine, as it has been taught in Europe and America by men illustrious for their attainments, long before many new and anomalous systems, which have their advocates and patrons, had existence, we believe also in the virtue of progress, and therefore open the pages of this journal to medical writers of every denomination throughout the United States.

Our individual opinions shall not interfere with the freest expressions of those who differ from us on medical subjects. Nothing, however, which reflects upon the personal character, professional standing, or influence of professors, practitioners, or authors, is admissible. Criticisms, however, on the writings, teachings, and theories of those representing the various theories at present taught in this or other countries, are legitimate methods of discussion.

Reports of cases, technically prepared as it respects anatomical, surgical, and medical terms, are solicited from any and every respectable source. Diseases and treatment, however much they may differ from our views, shall have equal attention at the hands of the compositor. Allopathic, homœopathic, and hydro-pathic practitioners, and indeed all others, have an opportunity therefore to promulgate their doctrines side by side, in an open field, for the diffusion of truth.

Communications should always be distinctly written, and only on one side of the sheet. Scientific terms, weights, measures, and doses, must be cautiously expressed, to prevent typographical errors.

Living in a republic, and an age distinguished for energy in every department of knowledge, it is in accordance with an enlightened public sentiment, for the press to assist in the dissemination of every fact and discovery which promises to better the condition of humanity.

SANITARY CONDITION OF NEW YORK.—On the 4th of August, which was a regular monthly meeting of the Academy of Medicine, composed of the first class of medical men in that city, they had under consideration that old skeleton of a subject, among other matters, the contagiousness of yellow fever. The New York Times of Aug. 8th, in commenting upon the transactions of the session, says:—"Dr. Griscom, then, to counteract somewhat the sombre character of the meeting, reported a patented instrument and patent plan for fishing for tapeworm by means of a gold trap, somewhat like a lobster trap, which the patient is to swallow, (and which he will find little difficulty in doing after having swallowed the story,) and then is to pull up the worm—when caught. Dr. D. said the last remedy for tapeworm was pumpkin seed, but that this machine was undoubtedly 'some pumpkins' ahead of that. The society then adjourned."

No one ought to be discouraged at the dulness of the meeting. Please recollect where the mercury stood in the thermometer on that hot day. Then again—who could be brilliant on a threadbare theme? There always being two sides to every question, and physicians from immemorial time having pugnaciously differed on that topic, no wonder the society adjourned after the episode of the pumpkin.

Previous to listening to the description of the tapeworm trap, however, the following statistical statements were presented to what yellow fever had been in New York. It is a condensed statement, and exceedingly useful for future reference, because every few years some Rip Van Winkle wakes up with a mania for making the welkin ring again with yellow fever diatribes.

In 1702 there occurred a dire malady in this city, which our fathers report that their fathers called "the great sickness." Of its character or mortality no record has come down to us. It perhaps was the yellow fever. No great epidemic occurred of any moment until 1741, and again in 1742. In 1791 the first case of known yellow fever occurred in this city, and eighty deaths were the result. In 1792 there was considerable sickness. In 1795 there was a general epidemic in various parts of the town, but limited to the borders of the two rivers. In 1796 there was fever. In 1798 there was a great epidemic extending from the east to the north side, and even in Broadway, where it had never before appeared; but there it was mild, with few mortal cases. The total number of deaths in that year was 2,086. In 1799 it was as malignant as before, but on account of the care taken the deaths were less than before. Deaths occurred every year till 1803, when the number amounted to six or seven hundred, which is the largest number during this century. A form of remittent fever occurred at the same time. From this period up to the present time one hundred and eighty-nine is the total number of deaths from yellow fever originating in this city. During this time this disease has been epidemic in Brooklyn, Jersey City, Boston, &c. No cases occurred in this city. The results of these years are as follows:—

1800.....80	1817.....1
1801.....140	1818.....none
Sent to Marine Hospital..30	1819.....23
1802.....none	1820.....none
1803.....650	1821.....3
1804.....none	1822.....166
1805.....270	1823, several in Brooklyn—
1806-7-8.....none	in New York.....none
1809, in Brooklyn.....13	1823 to 1856.....none
1809, in New York.....none	
1810 to 1816.....none	Total in 55 years....1,376

CHARACTER OF THE WEATHER — TEMPERATURE.

Almost invariably the weather was unusually warm and dry. In 1795 it was warm and dry, the epidemic commencing after a rain. Three times extreme heat, followed by rain, and again followed by heat, had ushered in the epidemic.

PLACE OF ORIGIN.

In every case except in 1822, the disease started between Whitehall and Market streets. In several cases it began where there was "new filling up," particularly in 1795, when it appeared at Delafield's Wharf, which had been a receptacle for offal and various kinds of refuse. The statistics give the number of dead horses and swine, and allude to dogs, cats, &c., there deposited. This was extremely offensive, and it was finally covered with wholesome sand from the hills of the city, when the epidemic ceased. In 1805 the first case occurred at foot of Roosevelt street, the second and third in Maiden lane, and the fourth at some distance from this locality. In 1822 it appeared originally at the foot of Rector street.

EFFECTS OF FILTH.

Dr. Isaac Wood said that he remembered a sewer which opened near the locality where this epidemic commenced, and that it was very foul and noisome. Dr. Seaman, the editor of the Medical Journal at that time, noted that on one night a very large number of cases occurred on one side of John street, and that it was observed that the wind had blown strongly from the opposite direction, and he accounted for it by the fumes from the sewer.

In 1822 the regularity of the march of the epidemic was so marked that one might calculate with just accuracy its advance, and where it would be on the next or succeeding day.

He never was so impressed with awe as from the solitude of the deserted city. One might travel for hours through the vacant streets and see only an occasional head peeping through the half closed shutters, and this too when there were but few deaths.

The "Banker street fever" was not entirely confined to the blacks. Dr. Griscom had noted that this fever was confined almost exclusively to the residents of the cellars and first stories, principally to the cellars, and so far as he could learn, not a case occurred among the up-stairs tenants. This was one of the strongest arguments he was able to find for his report made to the Common Council in 1842 against cellar occupancy. In 1822 it was the same.

TIME OF ITS APPEARANCE.

Dr. Clark said that in 1805 the first case appeared in June, but its presence was not declared until the 28th of July. Sometimes its appearance was as late as the middle of September; generally in the beginning of August.

METHOD OF PROPAGATION.

The infection was spread by the transport of boxes o sugar. The ships were not permitted to come up

to the city, but the goods were brought up in lighters. Still the infection was present, and was transmitted even in the wake of the lighters, that seemed to be thus aired during the transit. It was conceded that the disease could not be spread by the sugar or by the wood of the boxes, and it was requisite, to substantiate the dangerous character of sugar boxes, to ascribe the *nidus* to the straps of raw hide that encircle the boxes.

GRINDLE SWINDLE. — Somebody sent us a yellow colored pamphlet, that heralds a new humbug in the professional line. The author fully understands the gullibility of the mixed races in America. They love excitement, and hence this is a great market for murder trials, dying speeches on the gallows, and mysterious medicinal mixtures. But to engage their confidence to the fullest extent in a nostrum, it must possess a terrible purging property: — that is the vulgar criterion for judging of the curative virtues of the stuff taken. Then, again, they fancy something that is good for every thing, like the paddy's leather shirt, that was warm and dry when it was wet and cold. Pills, therefore, which cure the gout, rheumatism, sore eyes, pain in the back, enlarged liver, sore throat, yellow fever, indolent tumors, and human miseries in general, including pulmonary consumption and cancers, always go with a rush.

Well, as we were saying, somebody sent a pamphlet from New York, which has become nearly as much of a depot for quacks as Boston, and from it the following paragraph is taken, — merely to show the prostitution of the press, — for it purports to be an editorial notice extracted from a respectable newspaper — paid for, of course, we suppose. "With this evidence before us, therefore, we have no hesitation in saying that **PULMONARY CONSUMPTION CAN BE CURED. IT IS NO LONGER AN INCURABLE DISEASE.** This is saying a great deal more than we ever thought we should be able to say, but it rests upon positive proof; and it is due Dr. G. that his discovery should be made known to the world. For the benefit of suffering men and women, it should be published in every newspaper in the country. It is a shame that the success of Dr. G. has stirred up the malice and envy of many physicians of the conservative order; instead of this, he is worthy of our highest regard; and we predict that the secret of this medicine will, in time, be bought up by the profession, and prove an important accession to the healing art, and a specific for the cure of a disease that, perhaps, fills more graves annually than any other in the catalogue of ailments. This subject is creating a great sensation among physicians as well as others, and our advice to consumptive invalids is, that they lose no time in obtaining this **GREAT REMEDY**. What if we have been deceived heretofore? better be cheated at housand times by mere nostrum-venders, than once reject the means of cure when placed within our reach, and cheat ourselves out of our lives. Though this medicine has been before the public but a short time, immense quantities are already being

dispatched by mail and express to many parts of the country."

On the 12th page may be found that which is all important, viz.:—One box, \$3.00; three boxes ordered at one time, \$8.00; half-dozen, \$14; one dozen, or any number greater, at the rate of \$2.00 a box.

Should a combined moral effort be undertaken to enlighten the people by saying to them, *Those boxes will take more money out of your pockets, than tubercles out of your lungs*, it would increase the demand for them; cry down,—and up it goes!

NATIONAL MEDICAL CHARACTER.—Perhaps no country possesses in its medical men a higher standard of professional character than the United States. All the Atlantic cities, and certainly those inland, very far into the vast West, abound with gentlemen in the medical ranks whose educational attainments, moral excellence and influence should be the pride of the people. They are qualified for all and every station where sound learning, good judgment, disciplined minds and sterling integrity are required. Hence, they are selected to fill various stations in political life. They are governors of States, representatives and senators both in Congress and in the several States. They are foreign consuls and confidential diplomatic agents of the government. They assist in municipalities; are directors of charitable and penal institutions; schools, colleges, and, indeed, wherever such services as they are invariably qualified to render with honor to themselves and advantage to society are wanted, they are prepared to assume responsibilities.

Examine the professional character of the United States in another aspect. Who constitute the majority of all the literary and scientific associations? Who are authors of standard works that redound to the credit of the nation, more frequently than the medical profession? They range through the whole domain of nature; and whilst administering for the alleviation of physical suffering, they economize life by studying into all the mysteries of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms. They travel by sea and land.—Who are better prepared for ransacking the globe in search of discoveries for enlarging the sphere of human knowledge? Who will not cheerfully acknowledge our indebtedness to this class of useful citizens, and accord to them the praise of having eminently contributed to the national prosperity by the influence of their character?

Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, New York, Charleston, New Orleans, Boston, Richmond, Albany, Louisville, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and, perhaps, as many more cities might be cited, are eminently blessed with an extraordinary amount of medical character of the loftiest order. In England they would all be fellows of the Royal Society; in France, members of the Institute, Legion of Honor, and kindred institu-

tions, while the Nestors would be drawing pensions for past services to mankind in general. But in democratic America, all stand upon the same universal level, where the race is open to the swift, and bread to men of understanding;—and the greatest reward, at the close of a long, successful professional life, the approval of one's own conscience.

YELLOW FEVER AT PORTSMOUTH, VA., IN 1855.—A good example is given to associations holding moneys for the benefit of others, by the Portsmouth Relief Committee. They have published a volume in which may be found a circumstantial history of the dreadful epidemic, Yellow Fever, which desolated that city in 1855; together with the names of all who died, accompanied by a transcript of the correspondence had with those who sympathized with them in their affliction.

Every one who contributed a single dime should examine this straight-forward record, because it will show them the faithfulness of the Disbursing Committee. The gentlemen composing it ought to receive the thanks of the municipalities, not only at home, but from abroad also, on account of the moral influence it would have on committee men. Having become accustomed to finger other people's money, they find it excessively onerous business to relate their doings in print.

We have not looked carefully enough to discover the number of cases. Seven hundred and thirty, however, were fatal.

Eight physicians—volunteers in the service of humanity—died. It is a curious item in the history of that appalling epidemic, that, with a single exception, every volunteer medical man, "who came from a more northern latitude than Portsmouth, died." A monument should be raised for transmitting to posterity, with honor, the names of Drs. Thomas Parker and Leon Gelbardt, of Richmond, Va.; Dr. Charles Waters, Dr. Waters, of Baltimore, Md.; Dr. J. Clarkson Smith, Columbia, Pa.; Dr. Cortlen Cole, Philadelphia, Pa.; Dr. J. L. Berry, Memphis, Tenn., and Dr. Edwin Hunter, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Were not the profession heartily weary of the question—Is Yellow Fever contagious or not?—a very long and certainly a tedious discussion might be here appended, which would show that a flat thing has two sides. There always has been, and, probably, there always will continue to be, two schools of believers, viz.,—the contagionists and the non-contagionists.

When a certain Scotch clergyman gave out the text, he announced to the congregation that the discourse would be arranged under twenty-one heads. Discovering a sudden movement in the assembly, like leaving the house, the parson begged the people not to be alarmed, because for the sake of brevity, twenty of them would be omitted.

We have no idea of probing that old irritable ulcer, which has been productive of more controversies than

civilities in this country, since the days of Dr. Rush. That Yellow Fever is a terrific disease, no one in his senses presumes to deny; and that immense numbers of human beings have been prematurely swept out of existence by it, because of the imperfection of the healing art, is a self-evident truth; and here the subject is dismissed for the present, after expressing an opinion that the report is a model one, on account of its accuracy in details.

When a philanthropist gives his money for the purpose of aiding the poor, sick, and dying, it is a satisfaction to know that seventy-five cents out of each dollar did not go into the pocket of an agent to pay him for doing nothing.

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE.—There are worthy men in the Faculty of this institution. Some of the schools are compelled to carry on their shoulders, like Atlas, several dead weights in addition to ordinary responsibilities. It is a misfortune not easily explained, how a dull, uninteresting, tedious individual occasionally gets into a professional position, where his stupidity is more conspicuous, but which must, nevertheless, be borne with, on account of a pecuniary influence connected with the appointment, — upon the principle that an ass makes a fine appearance while laden with gold.

Dr. Green is no every-day person. We recollect very distinctly the efforts from quarters that ought to cover them with shame, to underrate his discovery of an improved method of treating the diseases of the respiratory organs. Original men, the representatives of new ideas, are not to be frowned down by self-constituted authorities, whose governing maxims are selfishness personified.

Dr. Carnochan has made his mark also. His surgical operations are bold and successful. Dr. Peaslee is a teacher of experience. Dr. Childs, modest, quiet, but determined, is the developing professor. "For one star differeth from another star in glory."

The admirable policy of bringing new talents into the College, wherever found, is the true system, and the secret of that energy and success which characterize one or two schools of medicine that might be mentioned. When a charmed circle get possession of a hospital or college, and unite their forces to keep everything out but the King of Terrors, who is no respecter of persons, — farewell to all progress. They may be happy in the thought of being in the centre of the universe of science; but outside barbarians have the good sense not to fall down in worship before stocks and stones.

Facilities for anatomical study, at the New York Medical College, are superior. Being the basis of all progress in operative surgery, it is creditable to any school to provide ample accommodations in that department. In Boston, the anatomical arrangements are unsurpassed. At the New York Medical College, the rooms for dissection are more capacious, and better

arranged, lighted, ventilated, and warmed, than any other of which the Trustees have knowledge. The accommodations of the school in reference to the teaching of Anatomy, are of the very highest class (New York possessing an abundance of anatomical *materiel* not to be compared with any other city in the Union); and the Trustees anticipate the admiration of all who inspect carefully their arrangements for this purpose.

OHIO STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—A proper rebuke has been administered by the Cincinnati Medical Observer, to certain troublesome members of the State Society, who are impressed with the mistaken idea that the ring of their own voices is as pleasant to other ears as it is to their own.

The first day, and part of the second, were taken up with the preamble and resolutions, offered by Dr. Wright. They were pointless, and meaningless, and every one wondered what they meant. In the speech which the gentleman delivered, the Society soon discovered that the resolutions were merely offered so that he might *make his speech*. We must say the speech had nothing to do with the resolutions, and was abusive, in bad taste, and bore evident marks of being delivered to gratify private feelings of revenge. We think the majority so regarded it. This gentleman has had a wonderful success in making himself disagreeable in the Society,—in disturbing the harmony of the meetings, and preventing the discussion of important matters, for the last five or six years.

Ohio is not the only State where obnoxious men occupy the floor longer than those who have the misfortune to be associated with them like to listen.

The Society is not the place for disappointed persons to make their attacks on Medical Colleges or Journals, unless they have been pursuing a course inimical to the profession at large. In saying this much, we believe we but reflect the opinion of a goodly number, if not the majority of the Society.

Unprincipled politicians on obtaining office, have never meddled with the great charities under State patronage, in the New England States. In Ohio, the complaint is loud and long against a policy which interferes with medical appointments at the lunatic hospitals.

A great deal of dissatisfaction was expressed at the way in which the benevolent institutions of the State have been managed. The workings of these houses have been seriously damaged by the many political changes. No sooner does one political party get power, than it begins to turn out and put into office. Superintendents of Lunatic Asylums (who, of all others, should not be known for their political services) have been unceremoniously dismissed, and some new man appointed because he is and has been a politician. The effect of all this is manifest in our benevolent institutions. The majority of the members of the Society expressed themselves strongly on this point, in passing a resolution to hold a special meeting of the Society in Columbus on the third Tuesday of January next, to bring before the notice of the Legislature the evils consonant to the present management of the public institutions.

Among other good intentions, the Society proposes to ask the Legislature for a law to regulate the sale of quack medicine. It is literally impossible. An interdict by statute would quadruple the sales, and people who never saw a box of Mustang Liniment or Russia Salve, would order a year's supply. It is one of the dearest privileges of the people to take quack medicines, and they would fight for Pills and the Poor Man's Plaster like Trogan heroes.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Arrangements will soon be completed for having a full and reliable synopsis of whatever is most interesting to the profession, in all the principal cities of the United States.

The price is less than any other Medical Journal in America, containing the same amount of matter. Its frequent appearance, freshness, and energy, freighted as it will be with every variety of medical intelligence, cannot fail of making The Medical World a welcome messenger to the profession.

Subscriptions are received for six, nine, or twelve months, — which makes it a very economical journal, and within the reach of every medical gentleman throughout the Union. The money must invariably be paid in advance, by mail, or through expressmen and agents. The publishing officers are centrally located in the centre of business, and accessible at all hours, No. 16 Devonshire street, Damrell & Moore, and George Coolidge's large Printing Office, and at James French & Co.'s, No. 78 Washington street, south of the head of State street.

ADVERTISING.—Druggists, Apothecaries, Manufacturers of Surgical Apparatus, Chemists, and Publishers of Medical and other kinds of Scientific Works, will find this journal a valuable medium for acquainting the public with their locations and facilities for trade.

HOMŒOPATHIC VETERINARY MEDICINE.—A Boston publisher of homœopathic works in general, Mr. Clapp, No. 3 Beacon street, has brought out a second edition of a *new manual of homœopathic veterinary medicine; — or the treatment of the horse, the ox, the sheep, the dog, and other domestic animals, translated from the third German edition, considerable additions by F. A. Gunther.*

While we applaud every effort for ameliorating the sufferings of sick animals, it would be quite ridiculous to pretend that we are qualified to form a proper judgment of the value of a treatise like this — in which all the prepared remedies are entirely conformable to the homœopathic school. One of the reasons which led to the publication of a second edition, was unquestionably based on the demand. Were it not valuable in the estimation of those competent to form an opinion, copies would not have been multiplied.

One part of the volume is of a character to be understood by any one who has had no initiatory insight into the mysteries of the Homœopathic System, — viz. :

the history of the rise and progress of it — under the modest title of *Preliminary Remarks*. Nothing is more common, or indeed more stale, than to thrust the memory of Hahnemann and his followers out of presumed good society : but those gentlemen have been quietly multiplying, till they present a strong front, and can manage their own affairs. If any of our readers are not quite so much under the sovereign dominion of prejudice as not to be afraid of imbibing modifying sentiments — it would interest them to look over the first sixty pages. An explanation is found for the frightful little doses of the gentlemen who differ from their allopathic kindred.

But it will not answer to wander away from the immediate consideration of the subject before us, which is a 12mo, 303 pages, well printed.

Of the accuracy of the author in the description of each and every disease recognized as being incident to the domesticated animals, there can be no question. There is a fulness and completeness, too, about that part of the book which is essential to those who are to be guided by it in their examinations of sick and maimed animals. There is not a doubt in our mind in regard to one point, — that class of dumb patients, if they could speak, would be in favor of the new practice. Horses make no small exhibition of resistance when a farrier insists upon pouring down their throats, a quart bottle full of some vile mixture. Much may be gained by studying this manual. No matter where an important fact comes from, if it is a fact that may lead to clearer or more rational plans lessening the ills to which the patient ox and the noble horse are predisposed : and it would add to the dignity of any man to avail himself of the discovery for their benefit.

Unfortunately those gentlemen who have repeatedly attempted to elevate the study of veterinary medicine in this section of the country, were not properly sustained by the community. It is a subject worthy of a philosopher's thoughts. Dr. Slade, of Boston, put his scientific shoulder to the wheel before the legislature ; and he must do it again. If the homœopathists have ascertained that their mode of treating the diseases of animals associated with us, is superior to all others, it is proper to trust to it ; when it fails, try the next best. We should not scruple to restore a fine horse to health, with medicated globules the size of pin-heads, if they succeed better than quart doses, often repeated.

Imagination has been supposed to exert a powerful influence over homœopathic patients, by those who have no confidence in extreme dilutions ; but it is taken for granted that a horse has no imagination.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Not having seen Dr. Draper's Human Physiology, nor Blanchard & Lea's edition of Taylor's Physiology, the question cannot be answered. If the new works are on sale in Boston, they may be found at some of the bookstores. Dr. C.'s paper is on file ; Dr. W.'s also ; Dr. R. S. and Dr. K. can have as many vases as may be desirable.

SALARIES OF PHYSICIANS OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—In the city of Charlestown, connected with Boston by three bridges, is located the Massachusetts State Prison, which the inhabitants would be rejoiced to have removed to some other section of the earth's surface. It is an immense institution, with an average number, perhaps, of four hundred of the worst villains who ever escaped the gallows. The morals of the prisoners are confided to a chaplain, while their health is supervised by a medical officer, appointed by the Executive, or perhaps nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Council, who is required to visit them daily, and not only prescribe for the sick, but have a general oversight, — it is presumed over the sanitary condition of the establishment.

No one would be eligible to the post, in this land of high literary and scientific attainments, without being eminently qualified, and able to command the most undoubted testimonials from commanding sources. For being thus accomplished, and better fitted for a foreign embassy than two-thirds of all the present mis-representatives of this country at trans-atlantic courts, a special act was passed and approved on the third day of May last, by the Great General Court, in relation to the salary of that important and responsible functionary, which reads thus:—

An Act in relation to the Salary of the Physician and Surgeon of the State Prison.

Be it enacted, &c., as follows:

SECT. 1. From and after the first day of April, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, the salary of the physician and surgeon at the State prison shall be five hundred dollars annually, which sum shall be paid in quarterly payments, by the warden, out of the treasury of the prison.

SECT. 2. All acts and parts of acts, inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed. [*Approved May 3, 1856.*]

Five hundred dollars, in these hard times! — not enough to provide much more than the shoes the incumbent would wear out in twelve calendar months by running up and down the granite stairs of the prison, to say nothing of coats, hats, gloves, and other appliances of a gentleman, and allowing him neither bread nor butter to stay his stomach in the discharge of essential duties. It is quite beneath the dignity of this ancient and wealthy Commonwealth, to pay so poorly, — aye, meanly. Half of the porters and bar-tenders in Frog Lane are better paid than the physician of the State institution.

In extenuation of a policy so belittling, the old excuse that physicians are exceedingly numerous; competition is active; and that a hundred half-starved candidates would leap over a wall for the place, does not alter the force of the argument, that the laborer is worthy of his hire. One thousand dollars is not a farthing more than the medical officer of the State Prison earns for the sovereign people; and it would tend to the honor of any member of the next legislature to move the amendment of an act entitled An Act in relation to

the Salary of the Physician of the State Prison, by inserting *one thousand* dollars per annum, instead of five hundred.

Medical officers of city institutions fare sumptuously, having salaries worth having; privileges without number; patronage to some limited extent; a tangible amount of influence, which secures to them the treatment and courtesies due to gentlemen; and in addition to these comfortable affixes, one or two of them have board, lodging, a house, servants, a horse, carriage, and all bills paid by their munificent employer, — the city of Boston.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, NEW YORK.—Strong men are the pillars which sustain this institution. Such names as Alexander H. Stevens, Edward Delafield, John Torrey, J. M. Smith, Willard Parker, Robert Watts, Chandler Gilman, and their associate professors, are not to be found on every circular. "During the past session," says the prospectus of the coming lecture season, "the college has entered upon a new era of its existence." What has occurred? It was always a school of high character, and nothing of the old reputation will be lost as long as the Faculty are selected by the regents of the University, for their fitness for the chairs they occupy. Whenever family influence gets the ascendancy, and the college becomes an instrumentality for keeping a weak relative prominent, the sun of its glory will set. Nepotism seems never to have become epidemic in the colleges of the Empire State. Dr. Watts is Dean, who may be addressed at the corner of Twenty-third Street and Fourth Avenue, and who will give inquiring students all they may be desirous of knowing respecting the ensuing lecture time, which promises to be brilliant.

LINKS OF THE VEGETABLE AND ANIMAL KINGDOMS.—One of the editors of the Medical Independent, a spirited monthly from Detroit, Michigan, is Henry Goadby, M. D., whose paper, with the above title, illustrated by drawings, shows him to be a critical observer and a learned naturalist. Another of his articles, on the silicification of plants, indicates a familiarity with the literature of science. Such facts and suggestions afford gratification, while they open new avenues for thought. Physicians become fatigued by perpetually reading of sickness, death and postmortems. Dr. Goadby leads off with a good example in the Independent. An occasional introduction of something not quite as heavy as lead, into the journals, is an improvement. Natural history presents a splendid field for research; and where a mind constituted for minute examination, finds a proper sphere for action, medical readers, if any, appreciate such labors as are referred to in this connection. If he would chronicle some of his recollections of the Faraday lectures at the Royal Institution, they would be popular. We have not heard his equal at home or abroad, and yet he is without bustle or show. Wit and fact combined are his instrumentalities.

MARRIED. — In New York, Wm. R. Richardson, M. D., Mansfield, Ct., to Miss A. Freeman; Dr. Chas. Mayer Wetherill, of Philadelphia, to Miss M. Coleman, of Lafayette, Indiana; at Cambridge, Mass., Dr. Charles F. Foster, to Miss Mary J. Wells, daughter of the late Chief Justice Wells; at Woburn, 28th ult., Leroy Chapell, M. D., of North Carolina, to Miss Eliza J. Norcross, of Lexington; in New York, Dr. Carnochan, the great Surgeon, to Miss Morris; Dr. Earl Lorenz, of Hartford, Conn., to Miss E. Stanley.

In New York, Dr. J. W. Shepard, to Miss C. M. Haugh; T. W. Tower, Esq., of Boston, to Miss S. M. Colburn, a daughter of Elijah Colburn, M. D., of Nashua, N. H.; in Chicago, Illinois, George B. Foster, M. D., to Miss F. Frazer.

King Kamehamaha was married at Honolulu, on the 19th June, to Miss Emma Rooke, daughter of Dr. T. C. B. Rooke. The ceremony was performed according to the rites of the Church of England. About three thousand persons were present on the occasion. In the evening there was a grand ball at the palace. The king is twenty-two years old, the queen 20.

DEATHS OF PHYSICIANS. — At Bellsport, Long Island, N. Y., Mrs. Kemp, wife of Dr. Kemp, was drowned by the upsetting of a boat; five other persons also lost their lives.

At Plymouth, Mass., Dr. Edward Webster, accompanied by his son, four years old, together with the father of Dr. Webster, who resides in Vermont, and his brother, recently from Kansas, were sailing on a pond in Plymouth, known as "Billington Seas," when the boat was capsized, and Dr. Webster and his son were drowned. The two others were saved; and it was thought by them that Dr. Webster would have succeeded in saving himself, if it had not been for his strenuous, but unavailing exertions, to save his little son. The body of the boy was recovered, but at last accounts that of the father had not been discovered.

Dr. Alexander Randell, an old settler of San Francisco, Cal., was shot on the afternoon of July 24, in a bar-room of the St. Nicholas Hotel, by Jas. Hetherington. A dispute existed between the parties relative to money transactions. Hetherington was arrested by the police of the Vigilance Committee, tried, and executed on the 20th inst.

June 24, at Perambore, while on march in medical charge of the left 12th Madras Native Infantry, William H. Bourne, Esq., M. D., fifth son of Walter Bourne, Esq., of Harcourt street, Dublin.

Dr. Henry A. Ramsay, a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia, and for some years editor of the Daily Atlanta Examiner, having been detected in very numerous and extensive forgeries, and committed to jail in Sparta, Georgia, poisoned himself in his cell, by mixing seeds of the "Jamestown weed" in a cup of coffee.

At New Britain, Conn., Charles Brockway, son of D. M. Brockway.

**DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE
FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPT. 27.**

Richard Douglas 17 mos., Joanna Mahoney 10 do., Lewis H. Sanford 3 do., Mary Burke 13 do., George C. Richards 4 do., Walter H. Sturtevant 5 do., James Mahoney 14 do., Alice E. Bullett 12 do., Ann Cunningham 1 mo., Child (female) of Curtis and Lucy Weston 1 day, Charles K. Cook 14 days, John Donovan 17 do., Michael Hooton 28 yrs., Cordelia Gould 2 do., Charles W. Davis 31 do., Orestes Stropa 6 do., Mary Gilfoyle 45 do., James Bullock 63 do., Isabella Campbell 27 do., Eliza Hanahan 2 do., Patrick Dobbin 28 do., Ellen Clune 41 do., John F. Burton 3 do., Cyrus F. Burgh 51 do., William Nelson 2 do., Thos. Morton 48 do., George B. Woodman 12 mos., Martin Mullin 3 do., Mary White 9 do., John Riordon 7 do., Mary A. Donovan 12 days, John Crowley 25 do., Mary Welch 70 do., John Downing 66 do., Margaret Sweeney 1 day, Ann E. McLaughlin 14 mos., Fred. L. Allen 13 do., Andrew Mahoney 57 yrs., Timothy Murphy 42 do., Elizabeth McCarty 2 do., Susan M. Leeds 4 do., Louisa S. Bonnell 6 do., Sarah Shimmis 74 do., David Myers 1 mo., Catherine Brendell 14 days, Charles A. Smith 4 mos., Catharine McCarty 16 do., Henrietta T. Grey 16 do., Edward H. Murphy 13 do., Margaret McLaughlin 12 do., John E. Barron 36 yrs., Henrietta F. Roach 3 do., Isabella J. Ritchie 2 do., Ann Gilfeather 44 do., Ann Harney 57 do., Julia Murphy 43 do., Joanna Sullivan 70 do., Esther Sennett 72 do., Dennis McAvoy 19 do., Ellen Fox 50 do., Isaac H. Martin 21 do., Frances H. Thacker 19 do., Alexander Pierce 53 do., James Fitzsimmons 6 do., Ann Roche 39 do., William Hennessy 50 do., Joanna O'Dea 65 do., Maurice Colbert 50 do., Ellen K. Channing 36 do., John Bernegger 41 do., Albert Drew 16 do., Cath. Sullivan 16 mos., Fanny Windsor 6 do., Patrick O'Brien 8 do., Charles Rose 10 do., Stephen Willworth 1 mo., Mary Sullivan 15 days, Mary Brown 24 do., Lydia M. Hyde 8 mos., Patrick O'Brien 9 do., Ellen Kelman 12 do., William Aheru 9 do., Samuel F. Ellis 7 do., Josephine F. Dakin 18 do., John Douglass 18 do., William J. Simonds 1 mo., Child of Edward and Catharine Keenan 4 days, John Fitzgerald 7 yrs., Daniel Harrigan 33 do., Lawrence Donovan 68 do., Jane Crowley 16 do., Alexander Fee 5 yrs., James Connelly 19 do., Wm. Dodd 52 do., Deborah Lalor 27 do., Wm. Magee 33 do., Ellen McSweeney 33 do., Hannah Cain 33 do., James Kelley 50 do., Ellen Mooney 19 do., Daniel Kennedy 5 do., George A. Melvin 10 mos., Thomas H. Charlton 13 do., Walter Gay McG. McDonald 8 do., Angil M. Cobb 8 do., Louis Osborn 5 do., Edward R. Blanchard 1 mo., John Cronan 1 do., Mary J. Curtis 1 do., John O'Brien 3 yrs., Lawrence Fedigan 27 do., Lucy Malone 55 do., Jacob A. Woodman 18 do., Charlotte Peaslee 37 do., Wm. D. Gould 15 mos., Ella Rice 16 do., — Hawthorn (a female foundling) 1 mo.

DISEASES. — Inflammation of brain 2, consumption 21, convulsions 2, croup 2, cholera infantum 17, dysentery 13, dropsy in head 5, infantile diseases 7, unknown diseases 4, typhoid fever 2, scarlet fever 7, diseases of heart 2, intemperance 2, inflammation of lungs 4, marasmus 6, teething 5, tumor 3, thrush 2, worms 2, other diseases 1 each, 10; males 63, females 55: total 118. 77 were born in U. S., Ireland 31, England 4, British Provinces 3, other foreign places 3.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

OCTOBER 15, 1856.

NUMBER 3.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF R. D. MUSSEY, M. D., LL. D.

PROF. R. D. MUSSEY was born in Pelham township, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, June 23d, 1780. He was the son of Dr. John Mussey, a very respectable country physician, but who was unable to contribute much toward giving him a suitable education, although anxious to do so. When eleven years of age, he moved with his father to Amherst, N. H., which circumstance gave him the advantage of several weeks' instruction in the winter at the district school. His father taught him the elements of Latin, and at fifteen years of age he was sent to the Aurean Academy at Amherst. At this school he became qualified to enter the freshman class in one of the New England colleges. He kept himself supplied with means for prosecuting his studies, by laboring more or less on the farm in summers, and teaching school in winters. At the age of sixteen he commenced teaching, and thus employed his winters until he entered the junior class at Dartmouth College in 1801. The winter vacations were also spent in teaching, and he was thus enabled, with the addition of a little paternal assistance, to make his way. His position in college was always among the foremost of his class. In August, 1803, he graduated, and immediately thereafter entered upon the study of medicine as a pupil of that eminent man, Dr. Nathan Smith, founder of the New Hampshire Medical School. The next summer, for the purpose of recruiting his finances, he taught an academy in Peterborough, N. H., at the same time pursuing his studies closely with Dr. Howe, of Jaffrey, N. H. Excepting during this time, his studies were continued under Dr. Smith. He received the degree of Bachelor of Medicine in Aug., 1805, after a public examination, at which he defended a thesis on Dysentery. In Sept. of that year, he settled in the South Parish of

Ipswich, now Essex, in Essex county, Massachusetts, at which place he was very successful. He remained here three years, when he collected his earnings and proceeded to Philadelphia, remaining there nine months under the private instruction of Dr. Benj. Smith Barton, whose botanical lectures he attended. While in Philadelphia, he attended lectures in the University of Pennsylvania, in the days of Rush, Wistar, Physic, Dorsey, Barton, Woodhouse, Chapman, and James, and graduated in 1809. Dr. Rush at this time, and for some years previous, had taught the doctrine of the non-absorption of the human skin; in which belief he was strengthened by some experiments in which the experimenter breathed through a tube fastened to his mouth at one end, while the other passed through a wall into a distant apartment to which fresh air was freely admitted; his body was then rubbed with various odorous substances, such as turpentine, etc. None of these odors being detected in the urine, it was inferred that no absorption took place from the skin. The plan in experimenting on cutaneous absorption pursued by Dr. Mussey, was to immerse himself for three hours in a madder bath containing three pounds of madder and sufficient water to cover the entire body. For two days the urine showed that it contained madder, when the proper chemical tests were applied. This experiment was repeated with the same results, and they formed the subject of his thesis on Graduation.

These experiments and results were very satisfactory to the profession, and a portion of the faculty. Several other similar experiments were made by substituting rhubarb, indigo, arnotto, redwood, logwood, and cochineal. Rhubarb was unquestionably detected, while in the case of the other substances the appropriate chemical tests failed in exhibiting them. In reference to the madder and rhubarb, the experiments were so carefully made and so

often repeated, that no doubt could exist.

One experiment in this series was not attended with danger. He immersed himself for three hours in a strong infusion of nutgalls, and then went into a strong solution of sulphate of iron, lying in that three hours more. No ink was found in the urine. A vein was opened in his hand for the purpose of seeing whether the blood exhibited anything peculiar. About an ounce and a half was obtained, when it ceased to flow; and, exhausted by his six hours' immersion, he sank faint to the floor. The serum of this blood had a tinge slightly different from common blood, and was slightly coagulated—resembling very much the serum of common blood in which a quantity of powdered nutgalls had been stirred up and allowed to settle, from which it was inferred that some portion had entered the circulation. This experiment was not repeated, and its effects were not wholly recovered from for several days.

None of these experiments have ever been published, except those made with madder and rhubarb—although the minutes of them still exist, in Dr. Mussey's possession. As a matter of course, they excited, at the time, not a little discussion among the profession at Philadelphia; and it is said that some gentlemen—one of whom, at least, before referred to—had made experiments with odorous bodies, proceeded to repeat Dr. Mussey's experiments, with certain precautions, which they alleged he ought to have taken, viz.: they plastered up very carefully the outlets of the body, and then went into the madder and rhubarb baths. Notwithstanding these precautions, they readily detected the foreign coloring matter in the urine. They varied their experiments somewhat, and at length made the announcement, that they had found only a few patches upon the body, which were capable of imparting these substances to the circulation by absorption or imbibition. These patches were inside of the leg, and thigh, and arm. The teachings of Dr. Rush, after this, were somewhat modified: he admitted that madder and rhubarb had a very "penetrating quality," and were capable of finding their way into the circulation, through certain points only. In this he was followed substantially by Dr. Chapman, the late Professor of Theory and Practice in the same institution.

All this was, soon after, effectually refuted by experiments made, at the request of Dr. Mussey—by his friend the late Dr. Sewall, of Washington City—then resident in Massa-

chusetts. He immersed his hand and wrist, and afterwards his foot and ankle—for periods of eight and ten hours—in a madder bath—repeating the experiments, and finding, upon each examination, plenty of madder in the urine.

Dr. Mussey, desirous to ascertain if mercury in any form is absorbed from the alimentary canal, and exhaled by the skin, made the following experiment with his pupil, Mr. S. O. Porter, in 1821. Mr. P., laboring under some slight derangement of the alimentive functions, was desirous to take an active cathartic. The doctor gave him forty grains of blue mass—at the same time applied a half-eagle gold piece to the bend of the arm. He covered it with a large patch of wash leather, spread with adhesive plaster, bound it on with a bandage, and let it remain for three days.

The medicine operated upon the bowels somewhat freely; on removing the gold piece, the side which lay upon the skin was beautifully whitened over with a coat of quicksilver.

He has repeated the same experiment upon a patient in Ohio, and with a like result,—excepting that the quantity of medicine given was not more than half the other, and the coating of quicksilver was thinner, but very distinct.

More than thirty years since, a young lady from a distance was put under Dr. M.'s charge, for a large chronic swelling of the thyroid gland. The doctor applied a strong iodine ointment to one side of the tumor, covered the ointment with tin foil, and applied the two conductors of a small galvanic battery—of a dozen three-inch double plates—to the two sides of the swelling; applying the pole which attracts iodine, to the side of the tumor upon which there was no ointment. A strong prickly sensation, as of fine needles, was felt through the tumor. This was repeated every day or two for some weeks.

Reversing the poles was often tried in these applications, with uniformly the same result, viz.: the prickly sensation ceased. Ultimately, there was a distinct fluctuation in the tumor, which was opened by a bistoury. A thin, turbid fluid escaped, giving a strong smell of iodine. This was followed by suppuration, and a discharge of pus, for some weeks. The tumor gradually subsided, and when the discharge ceased, only a slight enlargement above the natural dimensions of the neck, remained. The pus discharged, gave the iodine odor; leaving the inference that some small quantity of this article was one of its elements. The

family in which the patient stayed, complained very much of the iodine smell of the discharges.

This mode of treatment, and its results, were regarded at that time as rather novel.

By the foregoing history it will be seen that Dr. Mussey is entitled to much credit as an original experimenter, by which some important physiological questions have been elucidated. His professional fame does not rest entirely on his surgical practice, as is generally supposed.

On returning from Philadelphia Dr. Mussey settled in Salem, Massachusetts, at that time a town of twelve thousand inhabitants. Here he formed a professional partnership with that excellent and learned man, Dr. Daniel Oliver, afterward Professor Oliver, of the New Hampshire Medical School.

These gentlemen gave in connection, in two successive years, two popular courses of lectures on Chemistry, which was a new feature in the attractions of that town. Dr. M. resided in Salem between five and six years, most of the time engaged in a large practice. His obstetrical practice in particular, was very large during the last three years, amounting, on an average, to a fraction over three cases per week. In this place he commenced his surgical operations, of which a considerable number were performed — particularly on the eye.

He was appointed to, and accepted, the Chair of Theory and Practice of Physic, in Dartmouth College, in the fall of 1814. On account of some difficulties and changes in the College, he lectured on Chemistry for one session, successfully and satisfactorily. After the settlement of these difficulties, Dr. M. was appointed to the Professorship of Anatomy and Surgery. The duty of these two Chairs, (having to deliver two lectures per day,) his duties as a practitioner, and the necessity of a special study of anatomy, compelled him to work by day, and largely encroached upon the night, in such a manner that it is to be apprehended but few of our young men at the present time, would be willing to undertake such a task.

He continued in the performance of his duties in these branches, until the close of the session of 1838; in addition to which he was called upon to give lectures for a time on *Materia Medica*, and also on Obstetrics, to meet some occasional emergencies of the College.

In the summer of 1817, he gave a course of lectures on Chemistry at Middlebury College, in Vermont.

Early in December, 1829, Dr. Mussey left Hanover for Paris, where he remained several

months, attending the Hospital Cliniques.— During this absence he passed several weeks in London, visited many of the Provincial Hospitals and Museums of Anatomy, as well as those of the metropolis; and formed the acquaintance of many distinguished professional gentlemen.

From this absence of ten months he returned in season to complete his college duties, by giving double and treble lectures in the session of 1830.

At this time, the Medical School of Maine, having lost by death its Professor of Anatomy and Surgery, invited Dr. Mussey to give the lectures in those branches; which he did, for four successive winters — the session in Maine commencing after that in New Hampshire had closed.

For two successive seasons, in 1836 and 1837, after the close of the New Hampshire session, Dr. M. went to Fairfield, Herkimer Co., N. Y., to give lectures on Surgery, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons located there, an institution then very flourishing, but some years afterward given up.

In the fall of 1838, Dr. M., worn with the laborious country practice in a cold climate, and looking to his future, as probably of longer usefulness in a city, accepted an invitation to the Professorship of Surgery, in the Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati, and removed thither with his family. In that institution, for fourteen successive years, he gave the lectures on Surgery, besides having charge of the surgical department of the Commercial Hospital of Cincinnati, and sustaining a full practice.

Dr. M. resigned the chair of Surgery in the Medical College of Ohio, after having delivered fourteen courses of lectures. During the summer of 1852, the Miami Medical College was organized, and Dr. Mussey was offered the chair of Surgery, which he accepted, and he has delivered in this school four full courses of lectures, and has had, during the sessions, charge of the surgical department of St. John's Hotel for Invalids. He now occupies these positions.

In 1854 the degree of LL. D. was conferred upon him by Dartmouth College.

At and before the time of Dr. Mussey's visit to Europe in 1830, the doctrine of the non-union of intra-capsular fractures of the neck of the thigh bone, was taught by Sir Astley Cooper, and admitted by many distinguished members of the profession in Great Britain. Dr. M. carried with him a specimen, which, in the opinion of several surgeons both in Paris

and London, satisfactorily demonstrated the fact of such bony union. When this was shown to Sir Astley, he at first remarked, "This was never broken." After a more careful inspection of it, especially its interior, which had been sawed into two vertical portions to render it accessible to the eye, he remarked, "This does look a little more like it, to be sure, but I do not think the fracture was entirely within the capsular ligament." Few surgeons who saw the specimen, had the assurance to deny that it was a case of bona fide fracture. That distinguished surgeon, Mr. John Thompson, of Edinburgh, author of a treatise on Inflammation, valuable in its time, did, however, upon taking the specimen in his hand, declare "upon his troth and honor," that it had never been broken. This opinion, given with an ex-cathedra emphasis, foreclosed all further conversation. Since that time, Dr. Mussey has procured several specimens, which prove indubitably a bony re-union of this intracapsular fracture.

Before his visit to Europe, Dr. M. had operated upon a young man, for a large, bleeding, and ulcerated nævus, upon the vertex of the head — by tying in succession both carotid arteries, at twelve days' interval — and a few weeks afterward, removing the tumor. An account of this case, contained in the *American Journal of the Med. and Phys. Sciences* for February, 1830, had been received in London a short time before Dr. M.'s arrival there. As this was the first published case of tying both carotids, it necessarily excited some interest in the profession, and enlarged Dr. M.'s facilities of intercourse with its scientific members in that metropolis.

As a physician and operative surgeon, Dr. M. has sustained a prominent rank in the profession of our country. While in New Hampshire, he had a widely extended field for the exercise of his professional abilities; and although he had not the advantage of that close association with medical men which large cities give, the privation resulted in a more thorough development of his own powers, and a more self-reliant professional judgment.

It was in this period, that he successfully treated, by operation, a case of uni-ocular ovarian disease.

Another rather rare operation was one upon hypertrophied tongue, in a boy of thirteen. The disease commenced at the age of nine months, and at the time of operation, the tongue measured eight inches in circumference where it issued from the mouth, and five inches in

length, from the upper lip to the tip of the tongue. The operation was successful. Reported in the *Philadelphia Journal*.

Another extraordinary case was one of osteo-sarcoma, which commenced in the thumb and forefinger, and for which an operation was performed, consisting of the removal of the entire metacarpal bone of the thumb, and three-fourths of that of the forefinger. Thirteen years afterward, the disease had invaded the radius, and the os humeri; especially its upper half, which had become very large, and exceedingly painful. At that time, the arm was amputated at the shoulder joint. Six years after this, the patient came a third time to Dr. M., with the same disease, in the form of a large tumor, occupying the greater part of his shoulder blade and collar bone. He was then put upon farinaceous diet, for a month — drinking only milk or water — preparatory to a third operation. This consisted in the removal of the entire shoulder blade and collar bone, and resulted successfully; the first operation of the kind, it is believed, ever performed. This was in October, 1837. The patient is still living and well (1856).

In Ohio, Dr. M. had, in the summer of 1845, a case somewhat like the preceding. Mr. Stark, from Lower Sandusky, had a very large osteo-sarcoma of the arm, shoulder blade, and outer portion of the collar bone. Dr. Mussey removed the arm, the entire shoulder blade, and more than half of the collar bone. In a letter received from this patient in the spring of 1854, he reports himself well, having had no symptom of a return of the disease since the operation.

In the summer of 1845, Dr. Mussey, for osteo-sarcoma of the lower jaw, disarticulated that bone, removing more than half of it, and accomplishing this without dividing the duct of Steno, or the facial nerve. The object was to preserve the symmetry of the mouth for the patient (a beautiful young lady) and it was fully realized.

Dr. M. was not at the time aware that the lower jaw had ever before been disarticulated, and a large portion of it removed, without implicating the facial nerve.

Dr. M. has kept no record of the number of his operations, except those of three classes, viz. :—

Lithotomy, 52; 4 deaths. Lithotrity, 1; successful.

Strangulated hernia, 40; 8 deaths.

Varicocele, 49; by subcutaneous ligation

of the spermatic vein, with never a bad symptom following. In all the cases followed out — and it is believed in the whole number — a perfect cure.

Dr. M. recollects four cases of successful operation for perineal fistula; and two for stricture of the urethra, of long standing, and so complete as not to admit the passage of either catheter or bougie, into the bladder. In both cases, the recto-vesical tapping of the bladder was practised, as a necessary measure, to prevent speedy death from entire obstruction of the urine. After the subsidence of the irritation, the point of a staff, pushed as far as it would go into the urethra, was cut down upon through the perineum; and as no instrument, not even the smallest probe, could be passed into the stricture, an artificial canal was made, by passing, without a guide, a straight, narrow, sharp-pointed bistoury into the bladder, and was kept open by an elastic gum catheter. In both cases, the wound in the perineum was ultimately healed, and the artificial urethra, kept open by the occasional use of the bougie, for the first year, and very rarely afterward, answered a good purpose. One of the patients, who went to a distant part of the country, was heard from five years after the operation, and was reported to be well. The other, now about thirty-eight years old, still lives in Cincinnati. He stated to Dr. Mussey, in May, 1854, thirteen years after the operation, that he sometimes felt a slight difficulty in passing his water, but that for some years he had not, except in a few instances, been induced to pass a bougie.

In a third case of *impervious* stricture, in which there was enough dribbling of urine to prevent the necessity of puncturing the bladder, an operation similar to the foregoing was practised, within the last three years, with less satisfactory results. The patient — between fifty and sixty years of age — after a long confinement with severe symptoms, recovered, and went home able to urinate with a small stream, accompanied at each urination with the discharge of a few drops through a small aperture still remaining in the perineum.

In several instances he has removed the upper, and parts of the lower jaw, for the diseases not unfrequently invading those bones — and within the last ten or twelve years, he has had numerous cases in plastic surgery. In three cases, he had fair success, in making an artificial nose, and in one case, failed. In repairing cheeks and lips, lost by sloughing in childhood, he has had several cases, with very satisfactory results.

Within the last four years, Dr. Mussey ligated, at four weeks' interval, both carotids successfully, for aneurismal enlargement of the arteries about the ear. Within the same period, Dr. M. obtained a perfect cure by operation, of a recto-vaginal fistula. Both cases are detailed in the *Amer. Jour. Med. Science*, at Philadelphia, 1853.

Dr. Mussey's private character and history remain for a different record. That his life has been full of successful labor, possible only to a firm and energetic perseverance, this professional outline will indicate — that it has been for many years controlled by the principles of an earnest and conscientious Christianity, is its better testimony. His attention was roused in early life to the necessity of a temperance reformation, and his agency in that movement has been not only prominent from the first, but consistently progressive with the growth of public sentiment — unless it may be said to have been, at times, in advance of it. For more than twenty years, he has been a water-drinker, and for almost the same period, a practical vegetarian, in accordance with what he believes to be the true principles of hygiene.

His health at the present time is unusual for a man who is seventy-six years of age. He has the vigor, elasticity, and capability of men much younger. He attends to his daily professional duties, performs surgical operations, and delivers his didactic and clinical lectures, with great ease to himself; and his teachings are highly appreciated by his class. — *Cincinnati Med. Observer*.

SACRAL TUMOR IN A PREMATURELY BORN CHILD.

Wittich and Wohlgemuth have recently recorded a case of this nature, in a malformed female child, born in the seventh month of utero-gestation. This tumor, which was attached to the region of the sacrum was round and irregular on its surface, it was covered by the skin, and in length it extended from the under-part of the sacrum down to the popliteal spaces of the child. Internally it consisted of several smaller tumors, which were also covered with normal skin. Some of these were elastic to the touch, and contained a clear fluid; others had a doughy feeling and were oedematous. When a fine section of the tumor was examined microscopically, it was found to consist, in the centre, of oedematous subcutaneous connective tissues, and, externally, of normal cutis vera and its appendages, without any sweat glands. — *Monat Schrift fur Geburtskunde*.

IMPORTANT MEDICAL CASE.—MARYLEBONE COUNTY COURT, (Before J. L. ADOLPHUS, Esq.): *WOOD v. COSSER.* The plaintiff is a "general practitioner," of Richmond-villa, Bayswater; and the defendant is a captain of the British army, of Albert-terrace, Bayswater. The sum claimed was £6, and defendant had paid £2 12s. 6d. into court in full satisfaction. Mr. Vaughan appeared for Dr. Wood, and Mr. Grainger for Captain Cosser. The plaintiff stated that he was a physician, a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company, and a M.R.C.S. He practised chiefly as a general practitioner, and treated the poor gratuitously. His charges varied from 5s. to £1 1s. a visit; but they depended much upon the position of the parties, and the nature of the cases. In the present instance he charged for fifteen visits, ranging from 7s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per visit, and which charges were very moderate. The defendant's wife engaged him upon the occasion of his attending one of her servants. He only prescribed, and not did make up his own prescriptions.

By Mr. Grainger.—Has his diploma as a physician from Aberdeen. A brass plate on his door describes him as a physician. Has been in Bayswater nine months. Got acquainted with the defendant's family through Mr. Horne, their druggist. Asked Mr. Horne to introduce him to patients. He attended defendant's family as a general practitioner. As a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company he could and has charged £1 1s. a visit. Is aware that if he attended the defendant's family as a physician, he has no *locus standi* at law to recover his fees. Attends patients just as it suits him, either in the capacity of physician, surgeon, or apothecary — the three branches together form a general practitioner. Has no remembrance of agreeing to attend defendant's family for 3s. 6d. per visit. Mrs. Cosser told him that Mr. M'Cann, of Parliament-street, was their family doctor, but he lived too far away to attend her children constantly.

Mr. Grainger contended that the plaintiff was to all intents and purposes a physician, and in that capacity could not recover.

The Judge was of opinion that, by paying the £2 12s. 6d. into court, the defendant had lost his right to make the objection; otherwise it might have been fatal to the claim.

Mr. Grainger said his next objection was that the bill sent in was a blank one, and it had been held in *Hewston v. Batty*, reported in 3 Espinasse, p. 192, that where a medical

man sends in an account in blank, he is bound to accept the money paid into court.

The learned Judge took some time to consider this novel objection, and overruled it, being of opinion that the county courts practice, which required full particulars, set the blank bill furnished to the defendant aside.

Mr. Grainger then called the defendant's wife, who positively swore that she agreed with the plaintiff to attend her children for 3s. 6d. per visit. That her husband only authorized her to pay that sum. That she had not yet paid Mr. M'Cann; but Dr. Matthews, of Kennington, had previously attended her children for that fee.

By Mr. Vaughan.—Had some conversation with Dr. Wood about the war, but not about cutting people's legs off. Never had nineteen or twenty children, so cannot give an opinion whether she would get a medical man to attend them if they were all ill at the same time for a 3s. 6d. fee, — she trusted she should never be able to give an opinion on this point. (Loud Laughter.)

The Judge considered that enough had been paid into court; that plaintiff was entitled to only 3s. 6d. a visit, as the husband had only authorized his wife to pay that sum. Verdict for defendant with full costs.

TESTS OF STRYCHNINE.—We have lately witnessed a number of interesting experiments, conducted by Dr. John Traill, for the purpose of testing this poison. The animals experimented on were live frogs, and the symptoms they exhibited were remarkable. A grain of strychnine was dissolved into 250 drops of water. A glass rod was dipped into the solution, and the quantity it retained (about half a drop) was placed on the back of a small frog, which was then put under a glass. It made no motion for about two minutes, at the end of which time it appeared to have a difficulty in breathing, which momentarily increased. A tremor then became visible over its body, and it gave several convulsive leaps, when the limbs became rigid, and the little animal gave a *shriek* like a mouse, and turned over on its side. On being touched, however gently, at one of the extremities, a violent spasm shook the whole body, and in about eight minutes after the application of the solution, vitality appeared to have ceased, although muscular irritability, peculiar in many cold-blooded animals after death, continued for some time thereafter. A second experiment on a larger frog had a precisely similar result,

and the same shriek of agony was emitted by the animal. In this case about double the quantity of strychnine was placed on the frog. A third died equally hard, but made no sound. When touched, they sometimes seemed to suffer intense pain, and spasms ensued; at other times a touch did not affect them. During the continuance of these spasms, the eyes at one time appeared almost ready to start from their sockets, and at another were sunk into the head. The most remarkable circumstance to a novice in such matters, and even, we should think, to the experimenter, was the piteous cry of the suffering creature. The first attempt was made with less than a five-hundredth part of a grain, and the animal was dead in about eight minutes; the second, with about double that quantity, and in the same time death ensued. Thus the physiological test of Dr. Marshall Hall would appear to be the certain and unerring test of the presence of strychnine in the smallest quantity. From other experiments made by Dr. Traill, he has no doubt that the five-thousandth, if not the ten-thousandth, part of a grain may be at once detected. We believe Dr. Traill is at present engaged in testing comparatively the symptoms produced by narcotine, aconitine, and various other poisonous alkaloids.

PREGNANCY COMPLICATED WITH TUMOR IN THE PELVIS.

BY THOS. R. MITCHELL, M. D.

Some of the most puzzling cases in practice, requiring all the tact and experience of the practitioner, arise from tumors in the abdomen; and as I think the particulars of the following case are both interesting and instructive, I shall, without further preface, proceed to detail them.

In February, 1855, I was consulted by Mrs. B—, aged forty-three, the mother of three children; she had also aborted once, and, I was informed, was suffering from a tumor in the abdomen of more than twelve months' duration. She had seen several practitioners, and undergone a variety of treatment, prior to my seeing her. I ascertained that she had not menstruated for four months, and complained of great pain in the abdomen, the pressure of her clothes being most distressing, accompanied with bearing-down sensation, loss of appetite, and constant nausea and vomiting; the bowels very constipated; tongue foul; pulse 95, small and weak. She told me that five years ago she had a very bad labor, that instruments were

used, and that from that period she had always menstruated regularly until within the last four months. On examining the abdomen, which was very large, tympanitic, and tender, I succeeded, after a good deal of manipulation, in detecting a tumor of considerable size in the right hypogastrium. The examination was, however, most unsatisfactory, in consequence of the distress occasioned and the tympanitic condition of the belly. A vaginal examination did not assist the least in the diagnosis, the parts being normal, and *in situ*, with the exception of a slight anteversion of the uterus. Examination per rectum elicited the presence of a considerable fulness pressing upon the posterior walls of the rectum, and obscurely fluctuating. A stethoscopic examination elicited nothing. The breasts were very soft and flaccid, no areola perceptible around the nipples, nor any of the glandulæ in the neighborhood enlarged.

Not feeling satisfied as to the nature of the case, I ordered a brisk cathartic of turpentine and castor oil, which dispelled a quantity of flatus, and allowed a much better examination on the following day. The tumor seemed to be attached to the posterior part of the uterus, but so undefined as to render any opinion as to its nature of little use. I accordingly directed my attention to allay the more troublesome symptoms, particularly the nausea and vomiting. Prussic acid was given internally, and the bowels regulated by the administration of enemata daily, together with light, nutritious food in small quantities. She seemed at first to improve a little under the treatment, but the sickness was most distressing, and the prostration so great as to prevent her leaving her bed. Having an idea that the tumor might be owing to a collection of fæces in the colon, a circumstance which had previously occurred to myself in practice, I introduced an O'Bierne's tube. The instrument passed up, without any difficulty, its whole length, but, with the exception of a slight escape of flatus, no good resulted, except of a negative character.

Ten days later, I met another practitioner in consultation, and the various examinations, abdominal, vaginal, rectal, and stethoscopic, were repeated, but without assisting the diagnosis in the least. It was evident that so much constitutional disturbance must have a cause, and it was determined to watch the case, and meet symptoms as they arose. All idea of pregnancy was stoutly and indignantly denied.

Toward the latter end of March, the lady complained of pain in the right breast, which led to an examination. I found it fuller, and

with a slight moisture around the nipple; the skin was also darker. On making a careful stethoscopic examination, I detected a faint bruit, and informed my patient's sister of my suspicion. Early in April, I heard the foetal heart distinctly, which set the matter at rest, although the lady assured me she was unconscious of the fact.

Everything was allowed to remain as a matter of course; and although confined almost entirely to bed, as the enormous size of the abdomen precluded motion, and produced great sickness, still by attention to diet, and regulation of the bowels, she suffered less than might have been expected. Labor came on on the 18th of July; the first stage was very tedious and distressing, the prostration being great. After twenty-four hours' labor, I felt, what at first seemed to be the membrane protruding, but which, on a careful examination, I found to be the whole posterior wall of the vagina, which was pushed down, and as large as a child's head. At this time the os uteri was dilated to the size of half-a-crown, the head presenting, and the membranes unruptured. The pains were now so distressing, and her shrieks so violent, that I put her under the influence of chloroform, its administration being kept up during the whole of the after part of labor. At this stage, a consultation on the case was held with another practitioner, when, as there appeared sufficient room for the exit of the child, and as no urgent symptom was present, it was determined to leave Nature to herself. The catheter was used, and an enema given. At six o'clock P. M., after thirty-two hours' labor, the os uteri was fully dilated, pains brisk and frequent, head above the brim of pelvis; I ruptured the membranes, the pains became frequent, but there was no advance of the head. The long-continued pain was now beginning to tell upon her, the pulse rose to 110, stomach very irritable, and considerable tenderness over the abdomen. The uterine action was brisk, frequent, and powerful; but it was evident that Nature could not effect the delivery, the obstruction being too great, the posterior part of the pelvis being completely filled with a firm solid body, apparently passing behind the rectum, and protruding that viscus before it so as to occupy nearly the entire of the pelvic cavity. Having, therefore, waited as long as I thought safe, I determined to deliver her, and tried first with the long forceps. I could not, however, succeed in locking them, and therefore did not deem it prudent to persevere, but perforated the child's

head, and, after some delay, and no slight pulling, delivered her. The placenta was extracted from the vagina in half an hour after the delivery. The uterus contracted pretty well; but as the pulse continued above 100, I remained some time with her for fear of flooding, which was not however violent, and quickly succumbed to a dose of ergot, and the compress and bandage.

Her recovery was very slow and tedious. On the third day symptoms of peritonitis showed themselves, but having given her small doses of calomel and opium immediately after the delivery, they soon subsided; she was not, however, able to leave her bed for two months, and could not walk across the room even then. By degrees, however, she gained strength, and is now able to walk two or three miles. The prolapse of the rectum was most distressing for some time, but as the uterus descended into the pelvis it disappeared, clearly proving that the tumor was attached to the uterus. Numerous careful examinations after the delivery failed in discovering the exact nature or condition of the tumor, being evidently at the back part of the uterus and close to the spine. The lady, at the commencement of the present year, enjoyed pretty good health, and suffered no inconvenience except at each menstrual period, when she experienced a good deal of pain.

There are, I think, in this case several points of great practical importance, fully showing how careful we ought to be in forming our diagnosis, and how necessary that we should not be induced to place implicit reliance on the statements of patients or their friends. It is, indeed, a great wonder that the uterus did not expel its contents, when we consider the vast amount of provocation it received, and the powerful means that were employed. I have no doubt that the tumor had existed for years, and that it was the cause of difficulty in her former labor, and induced her medical attendant to warn her against any future pregnancy.

Sciatica.—Dr. Blakiston has treated eighty-three cases of the uncomplicated disease without a failure, by the endermic application of morphia. A blister the size of a shilling is created over the chief seat of pain, and a grain of acetate of morphia daily sprinkled over the denuded surface, which is prevented from healing, if necessary, by cantharides cerate. Should the knee become painful, the same plan is adopted at the ham.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*

THE TRUE SPINAL MARROW THE TRUE SYMPATHETIC.

BY MARSHALL HALL, M. D., F.R.S., ETC.

I remember the day when the muriatic acid was regarded as a simple body, and chlorine as oxygenated muriatic acid. Davy demonstrated that chlorine, on the contrary, is the simple substance, and the muriatic acid the hydrochloric; an opinion opposed for a brief space of time.

In like manner the spinal marrow has been viewed, to use the words of Unzer, as a mere "*thick cord of nerves*," and the ganglionic system as the great sympathetic; whereas the true spinal marrow is, in reality, the true great sympathetic, or rather the great dienergetic nerve of the general system, whilst the ganglionic intra- and extra-ganglionic system are its branches.

Since the promulgation of the diastaltic nervous system, of which the true and real centre is the spinal marrow and the spinal marrow only, two mistakes have been committed: the first was, to ascribe a similar function to the cerebrum; the second, to ascribe a reflex power to the ganglia. The former error arose from confounding the effect of *emotion* with those of the excitants of diastaltic action; the latter was, I believe, a mistake without foundation of any kind.

If we see a disgusting object, we experience an emotion which may issue in sickness and vomiting, as other emotions issue in sickness and vomiting. But who does not instantly perceive the difference between this psychological fact and the vomiting induced by the physical excitement of the fauces, for example?

Of an instance of a reflex action through the medium of the ganglionic system, the spinal centre being intercepted, not a trace has been discovered.

Is there, in effect, any fact of a physical direct or reflex action, excited from or through the substance of the cerebrum, freed from its membranes; or of any part of the ganglionic system, the spinal centre being removed? I believe not. To speak, then, of reflex actions of the cerebral or of the ganglionic systems, is to confound things essentially distinct, and unwarrantably to extend the use of terms recently introduced and well defined.

The great experimental question is this: When the cerebral and the spinal centres are removed, is there any possibility of inducing any phenomena such as those which have for ages been denominated *sympathetic*? This

question has never been proved or discussed fully and distinctly. It might be resolved in the following manner:—

The spinal marrow may be partially and even entirely divided in reptiles, the low-feeding and low-breathing fishes, and very young animals. This being accomplished, every means of inducing effects on the remaining functions is to be tried. If such effects be produced, it must be through the ganglionic nerve; if such effects be impossible, it must be because the real centre of reflex action is absent.

I have destroyed the whole cerebrum and spinal marrow in frogs, carefully avoiding intra-spinal hæmorrhage; but I could not afterwards influence the action of the heart, or the phenomena of the circulation, by any means I could devise.

Still I regard the whole experimental question as requiring to be subjected to new investigation.

I formerly regarded the diastaltic action as limited to obvious movements; but a multitude of facts show that it has a vastly more extended application.

We all know the intimate relation between the ovarium, the uterus, and the mammæ. If the new-born infant be put to the nipple, contraction of the uterus is excited. No one doubts that this is a reflex or diastaltic spinal action.

Pregnancy induces enlargement of the mammæ, and excites the secretion of milk. Is this secretory action less *spinal* than the former one?

The same derangement of the stomach induces convulsion, cramp, asthma, irregularity of the heart's action, altered secretion of the kidneys. Are they not all and equally diastaltic spinal actions?

The same pregnancy which affects the mammæ induces nausea and vomiting. The last phenomenon is indubitably diastaltic spinal. Are the others less so?

Coldness impressed on the skin induces contraction of the rectum and of the bladder, augments the action of the kidneys, stays hæmorrhage, and induces various internal inflammations. I know a patient in whom damp feet would induce sneezing instantly, with increased secretion of mucus.

The whole cutaneous surface is simultaneously contracted or relaxed by the local and partial application of cold or hot water. I knew one patient, a near relative, in whom exposure to damp infallibly produced renal hæm-

orrhage. A similar cause is apt to induce diarrhoea.

Many other facts of the same kind might be adduced.

That secretion is influenced by diastaltic action through the spinal centre is now placed beyond all doubt by the remarkable experiment of M. Bernard, in which the glycogenic function of the liver is proved to be a diastaltic spinal action. I quote Mr. Bernard's words:

"Le nerf (pneumogastrique) porte au centre cérébro-spinal les sensations (?) internes émancipées de sa périphérie; l'excitation qu'il transmet est, dans ce cas, *centripète*, et non pas *centrifuge*. Et, en effet, après avoir coupé le pneumogastrique, si, au lieu d'agir sur le bout périphérique, ce qui n'a aucun effet sur la sécrétion du sucre, on excite avec le galvanisme l'extrémité qui se rend à la moëlle, la fonction glycogénique non seulement n'est pas interrompue dans le foie, mais elle peut même être exagérée lorsque l'excitation a été poussée assez loin."*

* Leçons de Physiologie, p. 325; Paris, 1855.

As it is my present object only to suggest the idea, and to add a suggestion and an observation or two, I conclude this brief communication with one final remark. It is not only obvious that the true spinal marrow is in reality the true sympathetic, but that the diastaltic system has an extension over the animal economy scarcely yet contemplated by the physiologist and the physician. It is in reality, in this latter respect, only second to the circulation of the blood itself. As the blood really describes a *circle*, the diastaltic spinal system describes a *cycloid*; as the blood diffuses its atoms into every minute space of the system, the diastaltic spinal system extends its influence over every one of those atoms! The blood undergoes its changes in the methæmatus, or blood-changing (or capillary) channels placed between the ultimate branches of the arteries and the incipient roots of the veins; to these same points the diastaltic spinal system extends its wondrous influence.

July, 1856.

Violation of Natural Laws. — The Mormon creed not only permits polygamy, but marriage between blood relations. A traveller states that he has met with numerous cases of men who had married both mother and daughter. One bishop married six wives, all sisters, and his own nieces.

ON URATE OF LIME IN THE COATS OF THE VEINS, IN CASES OF GOUTY CONCRETIONS.

BY T. L. C. SCHROEDER VAN DER KOLK.

It is generally known that in cases of gout in which concretions form, the uric acid is not entirely removed from the system by the kidneys, but that it accumulates as urate of lime in various parts of the body, especially in the fingers. On examining, after death, the hands of a patient in whom these concretions existed to a great degree, I not only found the tendons of the flexors and extensors of the fingers, as well as the ligaments, deeply coated with urate of lime, but also discovered this salt forming tolerably large knobs under the very skin, so that some of the digital nerves were here and there completely surrounded and perforated by it. But my attention was particularly attracted by observing, after I had dried a portion of the skin in which the arteries and veins had been injected with red and blue, that the latter vessels existed as white ramifications, in consequence of the great quantity of urate of lime which had been deposited in their coats, while the arteries were quite free from any such change. The valves of the veins, too, appeared to have been injured or altered by a deposition of the same salt. Thus we can scarcely ever succeed in injecting the ramifications of the veins, at least those of the fingers, from the trunk; but in this case, I saw, to my surprise, that the veins, especially of the hand, and, in a less degree, those of the fingers, became most finely filled with the blue matter, which was injected into the veins of the forearm.

I am not aware whether this alteration of the veins in gout has been described by any writer. That it is closely connected with absorption appeared to me evident from this, that in the situations where the skin was most penetrated with the urate of lime, the cutaneous and capillary veins were most abundantly studded with the salt in their interior. It thus appears that the urate of lime having been separated from the blood, the tendons and the skin of the hand, is in part taken up again by the veins, and so becomes more widely dispersed through the system, while part is at the same time deposited also in the coats of the minutest capillaries, and especially as the valves are simultaneously destroyed, cannot be altogether without influence on the circulation of the blood.

The violent pain by which this patient had

so often been tormented can be easily explained, as the urate of lime had at the same time been deposited around the nerves, and had even penetrated the latter, as was very plainly demonstrable in the nerves of the thumb and index finger, which I examined as to this point, and which appeared somewhat swollen in consequence. It must be left to further investigations to show how far the pain in gout is always to be ascribed to irritation or pricking of the nerves of the great toe, in consequence of the deposition of urate of lime between the sheaths of the nerves.—*Nederlandsch Lancet*.

FCETATION.

However we may determine such grave questions as these, whether human existence be only a number of elementary atomic lives coalescing together, as EMPEDOCLES taught; or be the operation of one only simple principle like but not identical with heat, which must expand and set the gross elements in motion so that "it blows a man up like a bladder," or like the outer crust of a cake, which seems to be the notion of HIPPOCRATES and ARISTOTLE, still either of these being true, would not make the wonder less wonderful. Or whether, with our modern microscopists, we build up a new being, not by atomic lives, but by atomic cells,* and by one cell inserted

*Forbes' Jour., January, 1843, p. 265; also Oct., 1843, p. 519; see also Edin. Med. Surg. Journ., Vol. LV, p. 484, as follows:—

"It may be premised that Schwann, basing his researches in the animal upon the discoveries of Schleiden in the vegetable kingdom, had demonstrated that in development the same phenomena are exhibited in both; that animal tissues in general, like those of plants, are reducible to modifications of vesicles or cells; and that the mode of origin of the cells is essentially the same in animals as Schleiden had discovered it to be in plants. Dr. Barry's observations, then, upon this fundamental principle, may be stated to be as follows. The germinal vesicle is the essential portion of the ovum. The germinal vesicle becomes filled with cells, and these again become filled with the foundation of other cells, and the vesicle is rendered opaque. The germinal spot always presents at a certain period after impregnation a dark point in its centre. This point is soon found to contain a cavity filled with pellucid fluid. The free portion of the spot resolves itself into cells, and the foundations of other cells come into view in its anterior, arranged in layers around the central cavity. 'Every other nucleus met with in these researches, has seemed to be the seat of changes essentially the same. The germinal spot, therefore, is the point of fecundation. In proof of which there arise at this part two cells, which constitute the foundation of the new being.' Each of the succeeding twin cells presents a nucleus, which, having first passed to the centre of its cell, resolves itself into cells in the manner above described. 'By this means the twin cells in their turn become filled with other cells. Only two of these in each twin cell being destined to continue, the others, as well as the membrane of each parent cell, disappear by liquifaction, when four cells remain. These four produce eight, and so on, until the germ consists of a mulberry-like object, the cells of which do not admit of being counted.' The same process as that described is followed up in every minute cell. 'Every cell, however minute, if its interior can be discerned, is found filled with the foundations of new cells, into which its nucleus has been resolve d.' "

into another explain the origin of our existence, and its increase by these cells coalescing with others, and these again generating and multiplying other cells, till man is built up like boys build him with snow-balls or sugar-plums. Whether or not any of these great discoveries make the fact less marvellous, I will leave for those to determine who have more leisure than I for such speculations; and confess that whilst I admire, I cannot understand a wonder not the less wonderful for its daily occurrence. The most ancient account of it, already alluded to, (B. C. 1500) is, I think, the simplest and best, and all subsequent imitations of it are progressively worse and worse. But to recapitulate:

We know that the foetus then can be developed in animals even where there is no womb, as well as produced exterior to it in man where there is one, but yet always requires an ovum to its production. We must examine further into the conditions of this ovum. How can the cells or ova in the human ovaria become impregnated at such a distance, and with the intervention of such a distinct gap, as exists in the course of any impregnating cause from without, for the oviduct or tube does not reach the ovary. Again, how does the disengaged ovum get to the womb when it is impregnated?

Longevity.—There is a family named Drew, residing in Duxbury, Mass., composed of two brothers and four sisters, whose united ages amount to 495 years. The oldest brother is 90, the next brother 88, and the sisters respectively, 86, 89, 77, and 74 years.

There is a lady in the town of Durham, Me., 111 years old last August. She was married 88 years ago.

Life Everywhere.—The compound Plummet, invented by Lieutenant Brooks, U. S. N., is so contrived, that on touching the bottom of the sea, the lead detaches itself from the line, but leaves a small iron bolt, which will bring up a specimen of the bottom. Prof. Bailey, of West Point, has examined by the microscope a specimen brought up from the depth of twelve thousand feet, and found it made up entirely of minute shells, without mud or gravel.

How to Succeed.—Strengthen your body with exercise, and your mind with wisdom; thus you will be able to execute your plans, and will know how to act in a manner advantageous to yourself.

ON A NEW MODE OF REDUCING STRANGULATED HERNIA.

BY BARON SENTIN.

Baron Seutin declares that with his method of reducing strangulated hernia, which he has now practised for twenty years, he hardly ever in his large practice finds it necessary to have recourse to an operation.

The patient is laid upon his back, with the pelvis raised much higher than the shoulders, in order that the intestinal mass may exert traction upon the herniated portion. The knees are flexed, and the body is slightly turned to the opposite side to that on which the hernia exists. The surgeon ascertains that the hernia, habitually reducible, cannot be returned by habitual and moderate taxis. He next seeks with his index finger for the aperture that has given issue to the hernia, pushing up the skin sufficiently from below, in order not to be arrested by its resistance. The extremity of the finger is passed slowly in between the viscera and the herniary orifice, depressing the intestine or omentum with the pulp of the finger. This stage of the procedure demands perseverance, for at first it seems impossible to succeed. The finger is next to be curved as a hook, and sufficient traction exerted on the ring to rupture some of the fibres, giving rise to a cracking very sensible to the finger, and sometimes to the ear. When this characteristic crack is not produced, the fibres must be submitted to a continuous forced extension, which, by distending them beyond the agency of their natural elasticity, generally terminates the strangulation. This mode of procedure is more applicable to Gimbenat's ligament, the hooking and tearing of which are more difficult than in the case of the inguinal ring. Considerable strength has often to be exerted, and the index finger becomes much fatigued. When, in consequence of the narrowness of the ring, the finger does not at once penetrate, it is to be pressed firmly against the fibrous edge, and inclined toward the hernia. After a time the fibres yield and the finger passes. When the finger becomes fatigued, it is not to be withdrawn, but it should be supported by the fingers of an intelligent assistant, who seconds the action it is desired to produce. In inguinal hernia the traction should not be exerted with the finger upon Poupart's ligament, but in a direction from within outwards, and from below upwards, by which the aponeurotic layers between the two ligamentous pillars constituting the inguinal aperture are easily torn through.

The ring is then enlarged by this tearing, just as if it had been divided by a cutting instrument, or largely dilated, and reduction takes place easily, by performing the taxis in a suitable direction. The mobility of the skin, its laxity in parts where hernia prevails, and its extensibility greater in proportion to its thinness and to the absence of a lining of fatty cellular tissue—by allowing the sliding and the thrusting of this membrane in front of the finger it cushions, affords protection to the intestine from all immediate contusion. When the strangulation is induced by the issue of a considerable mass of intestine, or an accumulation of fecal matters, it is desirable, first, to disengage one of the extremities of the noose, and seek to expel the gas or fecal matters by moderate pressure, in order to facilitate the reduction of the tumor. In the few cases in which the finger cannot be introduced, a small incision may be practised in the skin, and the handle of a spatula or any blunt instrument may be passed in by separating the cellular tissue. Pressing this against the border of the ring, while avoiding the intestine, this orifice may be eroded or dilated without danger. The greater the resistance offered by the aponeurotic fibres, the greater will be their tension, and the more easily will their laceration be produced.

As a general conclusion, it may be laid down that the facility and promptitude of this procedure, and the immunity that attends it, ought to diminish the gravity of the prognosis of strangulated hernia, by rendering the circumstances under which recourse need be had to an operation quite exceptional. Such exceptional cases will be found (1.) In old, irreducible herniæ. (2.) When the strangulation in inguinal hernia occurs at the internal ring. Generally the external ring and inguinal canal are large, and allow of the easy penetration of the finger; and then the new method is applicable, and the rupturing or dilatation of the internal ring should be attempted, and the manoeuvre is rendered the easier by the fact that in these cases the canal is much shortened, and the two rings much approximated. If, however, the external ring is too narrow to admit the finger, an operation is required. (3.) When there are general symptoms of a gangrenous state of the intestine.—*Bull. de Therap.*

One of the candidates of a political party for Governor of Massachusetts is a physician.

COMMUNICATIONS.

IMPROVED CUPPING APPARATUS.—Sherman McLean, M. D., of Reynold's Basin, Niagara Co., N. Y., has recently made some important improvements, which should have the benefit of a thorough trial under the eye of experienced practitioners. By addressing him at the place of his residence, the instruments may be procured.

The annexed communication explains Dr. McLean's views of the advantages of the improvement, and the advantages, also, to be realized from the application of the cups in several forms of disease.

To the Editors of the Medical World:

GENTLEMEN:—Being the recipient of your courtesy and kindness on a recent occasion when I hastily exhibited my improvements in cupping instruments for your consideration, I cheerfully comply with your request in giving them a more full description, their *modus operandi*, and speculative, as well as positive demonstration of their immense value as a therapeutic agent.

The apparatus consists of a series of brass cups, seven or more in number, with graduated diameters, from one and a half up to seven inches, and being provided with one or more concentric rings or other bearing surfaces, to prevent the pain which would otherwise be inflicted by exhausting the air from so large a surface.

On the apex of each cup is a stout tube containing a valve, and by the aid of a small air-pump, with a flexible tube some four or five feet in length, connecting the pump and cup, and with facility attached and detached from the cup, the air is readily exhausted.

The apparatus is simple—portable—weighing only about two pounds, and not liable to fail or get out of order.

Mechanical means as a remedial agent, and by consequences obviating the necessity of giving so much medicine, has long been a desideratum with the profession, and devoutly wished for by patients, and if I have succeeded in accomplishing so desirable an object, I will endeavor to wait meekly and patiently for some evidence that I am at least a benefactor. The *modus operandi* is much less clear than the remarkable beneficial results obtained. By the application of two or more of the larger cups upon the abdomen and chest, the circulation can be effected to syncope, and in local diseases the volume of the circulation can in a measure be controlled at will, and for an in-

definite period, with the concomitants of revulsion and immediate cessation of pain, and happily, too, without the loss of the sanguine element of our existence. However recondite its mode of operation, nevertheless, it is analogous to the usual remedial agents, and the practitioner can, in some degree, dispense with his *Materia Medica* and pharmaceutical labors, by availing himself of this powerful, speedy, and efficient agent, if not a specific, at least a valuable auxiliary of the healing art. In chronic diseases, which have contributed so largely to the consumption of the nostrums of the day, with their attendant baneful effects, patients may now avail themselves of a safe and agreeable substitute, which, if not a curative in all cases, is a certain palliative. Opinions of its great utility as a therapeutic agent have been given by many members of the New York State Medical Society, and others of the highest distinction in the profession, from among whom I append the opinion of that eminent and distinguished physician and surgeon, Frank H. Hamilton, M. D., late President of the New York State Medical Society:—

“BUFFALO, Sept. 16, 1856.

“I am quite certain that Dr. S. McLean's enlarged cupping apparatus must prove of very great value in many cases of disease; nor do I discover anything eutopian or extravagant in his own views of its application.

“I trust, therefore, that the practice suggested by him will receive from the Profession their careful consideration, and that they will make experimental proof of its correctness.

(Signed,) FRANK H. HAMILTON.”

But, fortunately, we have more tangible evidence of its value by actual demonstration.

Within the brief period of its introduction results have been obtained satisfactory to the practitioner and cheering to patients, affording unmistakable evidence of its curative properties in a large class of diseases, such as Congestions, Dysenteries, Diarrhoea and Dyspepsia.

SHERMAN MCLEAN, M. D.

Reynold's Basin, Niagara Co., N. Y., September, 1856.

Debut of a New Professor.—Professor St. John, of Cleveland College, will make his debut as Lecturer on Chemistry in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, this fall, in New York.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. C. C. Chaffee, of Springfield, Mass., has been re-nominated for Congress. — Dr. T. W. Parsons, Jr., of Boston, gained the prize of one hundred dollars for a political song. — More beautiful specimens of surgical cutlery were never seen than were exhibited by Kingman & Hassam, at the Mechanics' Fair in Boston. Send your dull lancets, broken-pointed needles, and rusty scalpels and scissors, to their care, 128 Washington Street, Boston, and have them made as good as new. All the dental specimens in the same Fair reflect the highest praise on the manufacturers. — The yellow fever panic in New York appears to have subsided. The announcement of a new case produced no alarm. — "Who is now considered the first surgeon in the United States?" — Who can answer this question of a correspondent? — Life Insurance Offices have been in excessively bad odor of late. Who is the most benefited by them, — the relatives of the insured, or the officers who manage the finances of the corporation? This is another interrogatory that requires considerable heroism to answer. — If there is a physician in the thirty-one States who has not received a prospectus of some medical school, touching the course of lectures about to commence, it is not too late to procure a copy. — The potato-rot, like the annual failure of the peach-crop, generally emanates from those who have potatoes to sell. — Sporadic cases of typhus are occasionally reported as the leaves begin to fall. — Several valuable medical treatises are in press, but nothing in the way of striking works have appeared for some time. — Not having yet seen the eighth edition of Dr. Dunglison's "Human Physiology," we regret not being able to satisfy an inquirer respecting it. — It was announced some time ago that Messrs. Stringer & Townsend, of New York, had a volume in press on Sea Sickness. Whenever it is to be had in Boston, and the place where, will be noticed hereafter; if to be had by our going-to-sea friends. We cannot advise about whether it is best to send to New York; because, not having seen the book, we know nothing of its character or utility. — Dr. S. H. Allen, of Concord, N. H., was fortunately one of the number saved from the burning steamboat *Niagara* on Lake Michigan, on the evening of Sept. 24. — A medical practitioner of Boston believes that he has found a valuable remedy for pulmonary consumption, taken at an

early stage. He prefers to continue his observations a while longer before making it public. — It is proposed, from a humane quarter, that every express train of cars shall carry a surgeon. — New England dentists are the best operators in any country. It is hardly possible to make farther improvements. No other profession is supposed to be equally lucrative in the United States. If any one neglects or refuses to pay their bills, they keep their teeth in pledge. — Why don't young physicians who want both business and notoriety commence a course of popular lectures on the anatomy and diseases of the domestic animals? The ground is wholly unoccupied, and the harvest certain. — An Irish physician has set a praiseworthy example of demanding his fees in advance, before making a visit. Although his price is represented to be extremely moderate, report says that his income in ready money is becoming large. He keeps no books, consequently makes no charges, and therefore loses nothing. This is the English custom, which might be inaugurated here, if the whole body of practitioners would lay aside their jealousies, and stand by each other till the revolution is accomplished. — Seven eminent European physicians are attached to the royal household of the Sultan of Turkey; each one passing a night in turn at the palace, or wherever the imperial harem happens to be at different seasons of the year. — A Boston apothecary, Nathan H. Dillingham, is under arrest, and accused, in conjunction with one Amos D. Lewis, of causing the death of Frances Patterson, of Gardiner, Me., by procuring abortion. Is there no method of putting a stop to these murders? — Some of the artificial limbs recently manufactured by Palmer & Co., are improvements upon the outside appearance of nature in some instances. — Think of clearing ten thousand dollars in a single year by the sale of syringes! A Boston physician is said to be realizing that income from his ingenuity, without much effort, with a fair prospect of increasing his receipts. That is better than being out five nights in the week, and being cheated out of one's hard earnings by dishonest patients. — One of the most popular dramatic writers of America is a physician in active practice. While others sleep, he is wide awake. He will consequently live when those who don't know him are dead. Such is the value of untiring industry. Genius not being a commodity to be had at the shops, very many great men at home will never be heard of abroad.

FLOATING FACTS.

Honoring a Physician.—Dr. Carus, Physician to the Court of Saxony, known to the public from his profound writings on psychological subjects, has been created a Knight of the Order of Danebrog, for his literary attainments, by the King of Denmark.

The Weather in England.—The highest point reached by the mercury in the thermometer in England, this summer, as far as we have accounts, was on the 4th of July, when it reached 74°. July 7th the thermometer was reported to be at 60°, when at the highest point on that date. On the 8th of July it only rose to 56°; on the morning of July 3d the thermometer indicated only 39°.

On Tar Frictions—Absorption of the Tar.—Dr. Petters, in the instance of two individuals who were employing tar-ointment for the cure of psoriasis, has determined the fact of the absorption of the tar by the skin, and its excretion by the urine. He has specially determined the presence of carbonic acid $C_{12}H_6O_2$, in the urine of those patients, not free, but combined with soda; and considers that almost all the principles of the tar may pass, under such circumstances, through the organism, either in an unaltered or an altered form.—*Vierteljahrsche für die Praktische Heilkunde.*

Fear and Folly.—A rumor reached Abingdon, Va., a short time ago, that a case of small-pox had taken place at the College near that town. Instantly, the court-house bell was rung, the Town Council summoned, and the strictest measures taken to prevent all communication with the College, and to provide against diseases generally. On the next day, to the great relief of the inhabitants of the little city, the disease proved to be measles, and all was quiet again.

Gangrene of the Lung—Terebenthinate Inhalations.—Dr. Helm narrates a case thus treated with success. The turpentine was poured upon hot water in an inhaling apparatus, and the vapor breathed three times a day. The quantity of the expectoration began to diminish during the second week of the treatment. In the third week, the foetidity lessened, and lost its purulent aspect, and by the end of the fourth week the symptoms of the affection had almost disappeared. In the course of the next ten days all cough and expectoration ceased, and nothing morbid was any longer discoverable on examination of the chest.—*Wochenblatt der Aerzte zu Wien.*

Disinterment of the Remains of Gen. Joseph Warren.—A few months since, the late Dr. John C. Warren disinterred from the family tomb under St. Paul's church the remains of his uncle, General Joseph Warren, who fell in the fight of Bunker's Hill. The remains were placed in a stone urn, upon which an appropriate epitaph had been engraved. The skull was quite perfect, the chin still remaining. Behind one of the ears was seen an aperture, which indicated the place where the fatal ball entered which ended his brief but glorious career. The remains, with those of other members of the family, were placed in Forest Hills Cemetery.

Birth of a Giraffe.—At the Zoological Gardens of Paris, a giraffe, of the male sex, has been born, and the event is looked upon with much interest in the French capital, as it is the first time that a reproduction has taken place with these African animals, either in France or over the whole continent. The young giraffe is only six feet high!

Chilblains.—Professor Berthold employs a decoction of nut-galls, as a bath, or applied by means of pledgets. The itching and burning disappear in two or three days, but in old cases the remedy must be continued longer. Oak bark (1 lb. to 2 lbs. of water) may be applied as a poultice. This remedy is not applicable to broken chilblains.—*Journale de Pharmacie.*

Physicians and the Law.—Judge Minot of Pennsylvania has laid down the following rules of law, as applicable to physicians. 1. The medical man engages that he possesses a reasonable degree of skill, such as is ordinarily possessed by a profession generally. 2. He engages to exercise that skill with reasonable care and diligence. 3. He engages to exercise his best judgment, but is not responsible for a mistake of judgment. Beyond this, the defendant is not responsible. The patient himself must be responsible for all else; if he desires the highest degree of skill and care, he must secure it himself. 4. It is a rule of law that a medical practitioner never insures the result. These are received in general as sound views, and such as will govern every enlightened court. There could scarcely be a greater absurdity, than to require physicians and surgeons to insure the result, when they can in no case control all parts of the treatment. Few serious cases are carried through

a single day, and many not a single hour, without a violation of instructions, on the part of nurses and attendants.

Do Insects Reason? — Read this and then answer the question, Mr. Philosopher. As Dr. Darwin was walking one day in his garden, he perceived a wasp upon the gravel walk with a large fly, nearly as big as itself, which it had caught. Kneeling down, he distinctly saw it cut off the head and abdomen, and then taking up with its feet, the trunk or middle portion of the body, to which the wings remained attached, fly away; but a breeze of wind, acting on the wings of the fly, turned round the wasp with its burden, and impeded its progress. Upon this it alighted again on the gravel walk, deliberately sawed off first one wing, and then the other, and having thus removed the cause of its embarrassment, flew off with its booty.

Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society. — At a meeting of the Massachusetts Homœopathic Medical Society, held on Thursday, Sept. 25th, at Chapman Hall, Boston, the following gentlemen were unanimously elected officers of the Society for the ensuing year:

Samuel Gregg, M. D., of Boston, President; Chas. Wild, M. D., of Brookline, and Wm. Wesselhaeft, M. D., of Boston, Vice Presidents; George W. Swazey, M. D., of Springfield, Corresponding Secretary; David Thayer, M. D., of Boston, Recording Secretary; Wm. F. Jackson, M. D., of Roxbury, Treasurer; George Russell, M. D., of Boston, Librarian.

C. M. Weld, M. D., of Jamaica Plain; Benjamin H. West, M. D., of Boston; Luther Clark, M. D., of Boston; Milton Fuller, M. D., of Boston; L. M. Barker, M. D., of Boston, Censors.

New Febrifuge. — Prof. Sandener makes known the following febrifuge, much in vogue among the Greeks, which even the physicians themselves do not hesitate to resort to in those cases that will not yield to quinine. It consists in the mixture of half a table-spoonful of freshly roasted coffee with lemon juice. This mixture is to be taken immediately before the probable invasion of the cold stage; then the usual methods for procuring perspiration are to be employed. Usually the hot stage will be entirely wanting, and the febrile paroxysm will not last more than half an hour. — *Revue Médicale.*

A Very Aged Woman. — Mrs. Henrietta Harden died in St. Mary's County, Maryland,

on the 29th ult., having attained the rarely preceded age of 118 years. The Leonardtown Beacon says she was the widow of a revolutionary soldier, and as such applied for a bounty land warrant under the act of Congress; but owing to the loss or destruction of marriage records of that early period, and the fact that there was no other person living in the county old enough to bear testimony to such a fact, the old lady was unsuccessful in her application to prove her marriage.

A Village of Women. — The Augsburg Gazette contains the following unique piece of intelligence: — The Village of Madana, which is about sixty English miles from Rutschued, in Wallachia, offers at the present moment a curious ethnographical singularity, having been inhabited by women only for the last thirty years. At one period, this female population was two hundred. The ladies did not live like warriors, like the Amazons of old; but avoided all intercourse with men, and drove away from their territories all who appeared with matrimonial intentions. The anti-social settlement is now supposed to be on the decline; at least no more recruits are made from the disappointed or the love-crossed, and the members of the population are rapidly decreasing.

Photography under Water. — Mr. W. Thompson, of Weymouth, gives an account of the means he adopted for taking a photograph of the bottom of the sea in Weymouth bay, at a depth of three fathoms. The camera was placed in a box with a plate-glass front, and a movable shutter to be drawn up when the camera was sunk to the bottom. The camera being focussed in this box on land for objects in the foreground, at about ten yards or other suitable distance, was let down from a boat to the bottom of the sea, carrying with it the collodion plate, prepared in the ordinary way. When at the bottom, the shutter of the box was raised, and the plate was thus exposed for about ten minutes. The box was then drawn into the boat, and the image developed in the usual manner. A view was thus taken of the rocks and weeds lying in the bottom of the bay. Mr. Thompson anticipates that it will be a ready and inexpensive means of arriving at a knowledge of the condition of piers, of bridges, piles, structures, and locks under water. — *London Mechanics Magazine.*

Mineral Composition of Animals. — A philosophical writer in "Household Words" has written sensibly in the annexed paragraph: — "These minerals, which are interwoven with

the living structure of the plant, are taken up into the fabric of the animal. And to us they are as important as to the meanest vegetable that grows. I, who write this, boast myself living flesh and blood. But lime strengthens my bones, iron flows in my blood, flint bristles in my hair, sulphur and phosphorus quiver in my flesh. In the human frame the rock moves, the metal flows, and the materials of the earth, snatched by the divine power of vitality from the realms of inertia, live and move and form part of a soul-tenanted frame. In the very secret chamber of the brain there lies a gland, gritty with earthy mineral matter, which Descartes did not scruple, with a crude scientific impiety, to assign as the residence of the soul. You could no more have lived, and grown, and flourished, without iron, and silica, and potash, and sodium, and magnesium, than wheat could flourish without phosphorus, grass without silica, cress without iodine, or clover without lime. We are all of us, indeed, of the earth, earthy."

Guano Poisoning. — It may not be as well known as it should be, that great danger is incurred by the reckless handling of guano. We understand that cases have occurred of persons having cuts upon their fingers, who, in handling this manure, have received a deadly poison into the system. Guano contains an organic element which is just as certain to operate against life, if it once reaches the blood, as the corruption of a body that gets into a wound upon the person of the dissector. Farmers should be aware of this fact, and be cautious.

Delicate Bleaching Material. — The horse-chestnut has been employed in France and Switzerland for bleaching yarn, and is said to have great power in whitening silk, wool, flax, and hemp. The astringent juice is abstracted by peeling the chestnuts, and then grinding or rasping them; they are then mixed with hot rain or running water, in the proportion of twenty nuts to ten or twelve quarts of water.

Chloroform in Veterinary Surgery. — The following scrap may be of value to veterinary operators. It is humane to save a horse or an ox from pain. Their sufferings from diseases, accidents, and surgical manipulations, are as acute as our own. The merciful man is merciful to his beast. Mr. Harvey, veterinary surgeon, Macclesfield, Eng., has just been successful in performing the operation of neurotomy on two horses, while under the influence of chloroform,

without either evincing any pain. The operation consists in dividing the sensitive nerves running to the feet, which, under ordinary circumstances, is attended with acute pain. In these cases the horses, previous to the operation, were useless; afterwards, they were both quite sound.

Ancient Small-Pox Statistics. — We have before us, says the *Evening Gazette*, a number of the "*Boston Gazette, or Weekly Advertiser, containing the Freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestick*," for the week ending Tuesday, January 9, 1753. It is a sheet about as large as a common letter page, the first section of which is devoted to statistics concerning the small-pox, and an argument from Dr. S. Prince on the benefit of inoculation for the disease. From the table of the overseers for six months we find that 5059 whites had the disease in the natural way, of whom 470 died; and of 1985 whites who had it in the inoculated way, 24 died. The whole number sick in the time, white and black, amounted to 8238, out of a population of 15,686, of whom about 6000 had had the disease previously.

A Fortunate Physician. — The *London Gazette* contains an official notice declaring Dr. Rae and his companions entitled to the reward of £10,000 offered to those who should first ascertain the fate of Sir John Franklin.

Physiological Note. — A chicken belonging to Mrs. Jordan, of Ballyhannis, county Mayo, only ten weeks old, has laid an egg each day for the last nine — the eggs are quite perfect, but small, just in keeping with the little producer.

Pear Tree Oil. — From experiments lately made with the fruit of the pear tree, an account of which appears in the *Society of Arts Journal*, it seems probable that a new substance may be brought into use, possessing considerable commercial value. According to the analysis of Dr. Hoffman, the oil expressed from the seed, when divested of its peculiar bitter taste, may possibly be made a substitute for olive oil as an article of food. In illuminating power the oil is not much inferior to the average quality of sperm oil.

This strikes us as being more nice than wise. It would take a thousand bushels of pears to yield one or two bushels of seeds. How ridiculous, then, to practise economy of this kind. The oil ought to bring at least one hundred dollars a gallon. With us a decent pear costs from two to ten cents!

Statistics of Births in Boston.—The increase of population from a foreign stock, in six years, is suggestive of the controlling influence which quite a different class of men from those now on the stage will have in the management of the institutions of this old Puritanical city, at no very remote period.

Year.	Amer.	For'n.	Am. Father.	Am. Mother.	Unk'n.	Total.
1850	1961	3418	—	—	140	5510
1851	1908	3536	—	—	175	1619
1852	1855	3657	—	—	100	5612
1853	1651	3731	209	196	78	5865
1854	1737	3735	214	197	156	6039
1855	1533	4055	233	197	192	6180

This shows that while in 1849 the proportion of American to foreign births was something more than one to two, in 1855 the ratio has been reduced to something near one to four. The number of American births (notwithstanding an increased total) has become less every year, while foreign births have increased in a still greater proportion.

Fossil Tooth.—A monster tooth, weighing six pounds, and in a perfect state of preservation, was found recently in the bed of the North Shunk river, Mahaska county, near Orrill's Mill, Minnesota.

Lunatics.—In the city of London—without any increase of population—the number of lunatic poor has doubled within the memory of some of the guardians; and the cause has baffled their inquiries. Some are inclined to attribute the increase of this frightful malady to excess and strife in commercial pursuits; others to diet; and some to the effect of railway travelling.

Bones.—That world-renowned chemist, Liebig, says that a single pound of bone dust contains as much phosphoric acid as one hundred pounds of wheat. From this we can easily see that there are bones wasted on every farm in this State sufficient to manure the whole wheat crop. This, to many, will doubtless appear strange, but it is nevertheless true.

Royal College of Physicians.—The annual soirée of the members and fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, held in commemoration of the bequest of Dr. Harvey, and of the gift to the college of the insignia of the office of president by Dr. Caius, and also of the first convivial meeting of the fellows, took place on the evening of the 12th instant. The library of the college was thrown open, and by ten o'clock was filled by members of the medical profession and other visitors, among whom we noticed the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Vice-

Chancellor Sir J. Stuart, Mr. Cardwell, M. P., Mr. Sergeant Shee, Sir B. Brodie, &c. Around the room were arranged diagrams illustrating points of medical science, microscopes, stereoscopes, and various models of machinery, which afforded an opportunity to those present of noting new means by which mind can control and command matter. In the course of the evening, his Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by Lord Torrington and Captain Purvis, attended the meeting. His Royal Highness was conducted through the building by Dr. Paris, president of the college, and evidently took great interest in the various models which were pointed out to him. The company separated shortly before twelve o'clock.

The Legion of Honor and the English Medical Officers.—The *Moniteur* publishes an imperial decree, dated June 16th, by which, on the proposition of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Order of the Legion of Honor is conferred upon the following English medical officers:—*Officer*: Dr. John Hall, Inspector-General of Hospitals. *Knights*: Archibald Gordon, M. D.; James Mouatt, M. D.; Thos. Patrick Matthew, M. D.; Rich'd Coffin Elliott, M. D.; Inspector-General Thomas Alexander, M. D.; Assistant-Surgeon Thomas Clarke Brady; Assistant-Surgeon Thos. Ligertwood; Assistant-Surgeon Henry Thomas Sylvester; Assistant-Surgeon George Fair; Assistant-Surgeon Charles O'Callaghan; Assistant-Surgeon William Younge Jeeves; Assistant-Surgeon William Alexander M'Kinnon; Assistant-Surgeon John Gibbons; Surgeon Stanhope Hunter Fasson; Surgeon William Pearson Ward; Assistant-Surgeon Thomas Park; Assistant-Surgeon Arthur Henry Taylor; David Dees, Inspector of Fleet Hospitals; John Rees, Deputy ditto; Surgeon James Walsh; Surgeon William Edwin Richard Smart; Surgeon James Jenkins.

Window Glass.—At the glass works in Bavaria, a new kind of glass panes is made; they are convex, as follows, —, and are made by means of cast-iron moulds. After the glass is rolled into straight panes, they are, while yet soft, placed on these moulds, where they take the shape in which they are allowed to cool. These convex panes give to the windows to which they are applied a most agreeable appearance, as they disperse the light in all directions, and it may be said that these curved glass panes are rather an improvement in architecture than of the art of manufacturing window glass.

Heating Cold Water by Friction. — Our readers may have had their attention attracted by the wonderful accounts of a machine exhibited at the French Exhibition, by which water was to be heated, and steam of any power mixed, by the heat generated by friction — the friction being produced by forces otherwise unavailable. It threatened to be a second Caloric Engine, but the committee to which the French Academy of Sciences referred it, (Morrin reporter) have shown, that for raising steam, it is by far the most costly means yet proposed for getting power, and that cooking by it is impossible, since in the machine arranged for that purpose, the force of eight men exerted for $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours was barely able to raise 5 litres ($1\frac{1}{3}$ galls.) from 42° to 169° Fahr. On another trial, eight men in eight hours raised $2\frac{1}{2}$ galls. water from 39° to 186° Fahr. The highest of these temperatures is insufficient for cooking purposes. — *Journal of the Franklin Institute.*

Recent Discoveries in Jerusalem. — In digging the foundations for the residence of the Austrian Catholic bishop, there was discovered at the depth of 6 feet, below the Via Dolorosa, many subterranean halls, whose walls are composed of large cut-stones, and paved in Mosaic. The most important of these interesting discoveries, is a grotto cut out of the solid rock and upheld by five columns. Certain indications have led to the belief that this grotto was used by the early Christians as a church, although it is anterior to the advent of Christianity. The tops of Corinthian columns, and fragments of antique marble are discovered almost every day. The French, Austrian and Prussian Consuls, accompanied by the architect, Endlichen, who is superintending the erection of the edifice, made an excursion of two hours in length among these ancient galleries, hence we shall soon have photographs and detailed descriptions of the place. Perhaps the most singular thing of the whole is, that the local authorities do not oppose the archeological researches. — *Gazette d'Augsbourg.*

Roman Remains found at Narbonne, France. — The excavations recently undertaken for the railroad station at Narbonne, have brought to light many curious antique objects, which have been placed in the museum. We mention particularly, a white marble statue, of excellent workmanship, representing Silenus; vases in black baked clay, also of glass and enamelled red earth; medals; three Hebrew inscriptions,

and three funeral inscriptions of the sixth century. One of the latter deserves especial mention: the first part is in Roman letters, the second in Greek letters. It is the epitaph of Dometius, of the village of Taouza, aged 37 years, who died during the consulate of Basileus Masortius: *Oct kalendas junias, indictione quinta, Masortio, viro clarissimo, consule.* *Allgemeine Zeitung.*

The consul here mentioned, entered upon the duties of his office in the year 527 after Christ; it was he who re-read the poems of Horace, and caused those copies to be made which now serve as a type of the most ancient manuscripts which we possess. — ED.

A Martyr of Science. — Alexandre Tinconi, fifty years of age, originally from Constantinople, and a man of letters, was recently found dead in Paris, in the modest lodgings which he occupied, No. 7 Rue des Vieux Augustins. The commissary of police was immediately summoned, and betook himself to the spot, accompanied by a physician. It was proved beyond doubt that Alexandre Tinconi had died of starvation. It was not want, however, that put an end to his existence, for at the time of his death he enjoyed a very considerable income; but absorbed by his love of science, he forgot that man has a body no less than a soul to provide for, and would pass whole days together without taking food.

His dead body was found extended on a pile of books and manuscripts in every known language under the sun. His lodgings were full of them, and in some of the rooms this Babel of literature touched the ceiling.

Alexandre Tinconi spoke twelve languages, and was well skilled in many more. He had filled the highest posts of honor; rank and wealth were his, but he had renounced everything from a pure love of science. The state of disorder in which his rooms were found is indescribable. As for his personal appearance, it was worse yet. For the last two years of his life he had neither changed his linen nor his clothing. His body was completely emaciated. On seeing him in this condition, one of his fellow countrymen, who had known him when he occupied the post of ambassador, exclaimed, "Is that really the man I used to see so richly clad, glittering with gold and precious stones, and keeping such a crowd of eager but respectful suitors waiting in his ante-chambers?"

In the lodgings of the deceased were found a great number of rare and curious objects—

arms from all the countries of the East, real Damascus blades that you could roll up like a ribbon, Malay creases, &c., &c. Among the objects most worthy of note, was a complete collection of autographs of all the most distinguished wits, savans and men of letters in Europe. By his will, the late Alexandre Tinconi left to the Magazine Library six manuscripts which would seem to be of great value. As for his fortune, he ordered that it should be divided between the poor and the church of Les Petits Pères.

Female Physicians.—Mr. Newkirk, Vice President of the Penn. Medical University of Philadelphia, conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon the following named ladies: Esther E. Williams, of Ohio; Sarah H. Young, of Massachusetts; Ellen J. Miller, of Philadelphia; Mary M. Holloway, of Indiana; and Elizabeth Calvin, of Pennsylvania.

Illegitimate Births in Prussia.—In the Chamber of Deputies in Berlin, there was lately a debate as to fixing the age at which young persons should be permitted to marry. The introducers of the question feel that people get married too young in Prussia. The debate was stopped by moving the previous question. Some curious facts came out in course of the debate. M. Patow, among other things, proved that in fifty-nine localities in Mecklenburg, during a whole year, *every child born was illegitimate*—and the number was only too considerable.

All those capacious institutions in France, Spain, and throughout Italy, called Foundling Hospitals, are entirely filled from age to age, by illegitimate children.

Mortality in the French Army.—The whole number of deaths in the French army of the East, between May 1st, 1854, to March 30, 1856, when peace was made, was 62,492. The total of deaths in the French army, in two years, excluding those in the Crimea, was 21,028. There were 817 students of medicine in the University of Moscow in 1855. The pathological cabinet of that institution contains 1,151 specimens, and the anatomical 7,065. The medical clinic of the faculty receives 472 patients, and the surgical, 252. The dispensary had 1,540 patients; at the mid-wifery clinic 502 were delivered, of whom 30 died. The hospital medical clinic had 1,676 patients, and the surgical, 779. There were 65 great operations mostly performed by students.

In Austria there are 6,398 physicians, 6,148 surgeons; 18,798 sage-femmes, and 2,951 pharmaciens, and 614 hospitals that could accommodate 5,853 patients.

North Carolina Medical Society has 101 members. Dr. Charles E. Johnson, President.

In this country 86 works on medicine and surgery were published and republished in 1855.

Four surgeons and eight assistant surgeons are to be appointed in the U. S. army.

On the 6th inst. Dr. P. M. Meause, a druggist of Bloomfield, Green County, Ind., shot a young man, named J. Rainwater, in the most cold-blooded manner. The doctor had got enraged at him, and was proceeding to cowhide him, but the young man fled, whereupon Dr. Meause deliberately drew his revolver and fired two shots after him, the second taking effect in the abdomen and causing death in fifteen minutes.

Ovariectomy.—Dr. Nelson Winton, of Havana, N. Y., recently removed an ovarian tumor of immense size from a patient, Miss N. K.; 35 years of age. The tumor weighed 25 pounds, and the incision in the abdomen was 18 inches in length! Miss K. has nearly recovered. These operations are rare through fear of the effects of so large incisions in the human body; most of them being unsuccessful. We congratulate the Doctor on his success. The operation was performed on two patients the same day, recently, at the Massachusetts General Hospital. One of them died about thirty-six hours after. The sac was punctured in one of the cases, but not extracted, and a large amount of fluid evacuated.

A Scientific Expedition.—We noticed about a week since, the arrival of Prof. Moore, of Iowa, on his way to South America to make a scientific exploration of the Andean regions of Equador. We have now the pleasure to note the arrival of Prof. E. C. Francis, of Keokuk, Iowa, who joins Prof. Moore, and will go out with him on the same mission. They expect to start on the 5th of next month, and to be occupied in their investigations about eighteen months. In addition to their zoological researches, we are informed that they intend to make instrumental measurements and examinations of some of the mountains and volcanoes of the Andes, about which little is now accurately known. We anticipate very valuable and interesting results from their labors.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 15, 1856.

TO THE MEDICAL PUBLIC.

For more than a quarter of a century the senior editor of this publication was intimately associated with the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal; and fifty consecutive octavo volumes of that work are permanent memorials of unceasing devotion to the interests and prosperity of the Medical profession of this country. In leaving it, to commence a new enterprise, embracing a wider range and more liberal sentiments, in regard to the various sentiments now prevailing on the subject of Medical Science, no ancient friendship has been disturbed, or unkind feelings generated.

With these introductory observations, an experience of many years induces those engaged in the service of this periodical, to hope for strong encouragement, since nothing shall be wanting on their part to meet the expectations of those who become its patrons.

Although educated to have entire confidence in the old school of medicine, as it has been taught in Europe and America by men illustrious for their attainments, long before many new and anomalous systems, which have their advocates and patrons, had existence, we believe also in the virtue of progress, and therefore open the pages of this journal to medical writers of every denomination throughout the United States.

Our individual opinions shall not interfere with the freest expressions of those who differ from us on medical subjects. Nothing, however, which reflects upon the personal character, professional standing, or influence of professors, practitioners, or authors, is admissible. Criticisms, however, on the writings, teachings, and theories of those representing the various theories at present taught in this or other countries, are legitimate methods of discussion.

Reports of cases, technically prepared as it respects anatomical, surgical, and medical terms, are solicited from any and every respectable source. Diseases and treatment, however much they may differ from our views, shall have equal attention at the hands of the compositor. Allopathic, homœopathic, and hydro-pathic practitioners, and indeed all others, have an opportunity therefore to promulgate their doctrines side by side, in an open field, for the diffusion of truth.

Communications should always be distinctly written, and only on one side of the sheet. Scientific terms, weights, measures, and doses, must be cautiously expressed, to prevent typographical errors.

Living in a republic, and an age distinguished for energy in every department of knowledge, it is in accordance with an enlightened public sentiment, for the press to assist in the dissemination of every fact and discovery which promises to better the condition of humanity.

MEDICAL ECCENTRICITY.—Dr. John G. Treadwell, of Salem, Mass., a medical gentleman, who was the possessor of a large estate, died some few months ago, leaving a will that has already been the subject of newspaper paragraphs, and there is a fair prospect that more will follow. His object and intention were undoubtedly good; but he most unfortunately so hampered that part of the property which is designed to diffuse anatomical and physiological knowledge, with provisos, that the man who is unfortunate in being the professor under Dr. Treadwell's endowment, will have a hard road to travel.

From the little that has been gathered in regard to a specific provision for annual courses of lectures before the academical students at Cambridge, it is quite certain it will be no sinecure to hold the Treadwell Chair.

According to report, on the death of Dr. Treadwell's mother, a certain amount of his property is to go to Harvard College, for the maintenance of a teacher of Physiology and Structural Anatomy, and the Laws of Life and Organization. The teacher must deliver sixty lectures annually, of one hour each, to the under-graduates. They are to be "so that hearers may understand, as far as is known, how they live and move and have their being." A capital idea. Very few have yet been the wiser for anything they have heard or read from a purely professional source on those subjects. "The teacher shall have been an active practitioner of medicine or surgery, or both, for the term of ten years, at least."

There will be no difficulty in finding applicants. More than one hundred physicians and surgeons who never earned enough by their profession to pay a week's board, but who have been sitting and waiting fifteen years for patients, may be the candidates. That is not all. Some one of them who has the largest number of friends at court, it is safe to predict, may have the appointment. The will declares that after his election, "he shall not be permitted to practise medicine, surgery, or any other department of the healing art for pecuniary reward."

Prediction second.—Whoever is made professor will visit Europe, of course, and travel extensively, with the avowed purpose of qualifying himself to shine more brilliantly than ordinary scientific lights,—and who will perambulate more picture galleries than anatomical cabinets,—all the while supported out of the Treadwell fund.

The unhappy incumbent is never to lecture, we understand, "before the Lowell Institute, Lyceums, or any similar establishment for *amusing* the public."

If that is not a blow direct, then those who have amused the Boston public at the Lowell Institute have no susceptibility. There are some other restrictions upon the personal liberty of the Treadwell professor, not to be considered an indignity, because the salary is supposed to be a plaster large enough to cover over all abraded feelings. If the income is not twelve hundred dollars, as a salary, he may lecture fifty times in

Boston, (to amuse the public, it is presumed,) provided the Faculty of the College give their consent. Thus the Treadwell professor is to be tethered, like a donkey tied to a stake, — being only permitted to feed in a small circle, under the eye of a groom.

Now comes the ordeal. Candidates are obliged to produce evidence of qualifications. Who are to sit in judgment to decide upon their value? A Board of Examiners — one from the County of Suffolk — another from the County of Essex or Middlesex — and a third from any other place. By this stipulation, it is quite certain that the Man in the Moon would be entitled to a seat at the Board — so perfectly indefinite is the last stipulation.

Here is a vexatious clause. Before being actually elected, and while he is a candidate recommended for appointment, the professorial aspirant must bring in his amount of practice, and show his book of charges, — a most trying position for some individuals. That can be evaded, or, rather, leaped over, by charging one hundred dollars a visit, instead of adhering strictly to the fee table. Is there any law against high charges? No one is permitted to fall below the tariff, but if no one were allowed to take over two dollars for a visit, or five for an ordinary consultation, when fifty would be cheerfully paid by the patient, how could any one realize from practice, ten to twenty thousand dollars a year?

He, the ambitious applicant, is to be examined six hours. Heaven save the mark! Five of them will, probably, be through a microscope.

The day after his examination, the incipient professor is to deliver an oral lecture, which the vulgar public may hear, if they choose; and any one may ask questions and obtain answers, if they can. Lastly, when the poor sufferer has reached the age of sixty-five years, he is to be trotted out of the ring. Peremptorily, he is commanded to resign.

Whoever submits to all the foregoing preliminaries, for twelve hundred dollars a year, or even more, could do far better by emigrating to Texas. Still, it will be amusing to watch the movements, and especially astonishing when the name of the successful candidate is announced — if there is a man in New England who is willing to bow so low to Baal for the honor, and be starved on a salary. The rag-pickers in State street wouldn't accept the boon. Not they; their business is far more lucrative. "Would honor mend a broken leg?" No.

Here is a provision for a contingency. The property cannot escape; it will certainly be swallowed up by a no-soul Corporation in the end; and Dr. Treadwell's last will and testament, unquestionably, will be considered, in after times, as it now is, — the emanation of an eccentric mind.

"In case of the refusal of the College to accept the trust, or a neglect to comply with the conditions imposed upon them, the property goes to the Massachusetts General Hospital, in trust. The income in that case is to be applied to the support of such poor per-

sons as need medical or surgical attendance, preference being given, other things being equal, to applicants from Salem. The income of \$5000 to be appropriated to the library, and his books also, will go to the Hospital in case of the refusal of the College to accept them."

PROFESSIONAL ENVY. — *What is bred in the bone remains long in the flesh*, says some old croaking casuist. No persons are more wretched than those who are distressed when any body is discovered to be better off than themselves. Jaundice, the measles, and even the Illinois shakes and fever may be cured, but envy resists all medication. Moral suasion answers extremely well with inebriates, — even better perhaps than the penalties of the Maine Law; but it is useless in chronic envy. Sometimes physicians are under its terrible dominion through life, without suspecting the secret of their unhappiness. Inoculation with generous sentiments is recommended in extreme cases.

YELLOW FEVER. — If the combined medical wisdom of the world has not yet found out a method of controlling this sweeping malady, what is the prospect in future respecting its ravages? This will become a grave commercial question hereafter. Several great ports, the focus of immense trade, it is fair to conclude, will be abandoned, on account of the almost annual desolations by yellow fever, and new points of maritime business be selected, where the soil, the water and the atmosphere are not perpetually charged with an intangible something, which is destructive to human life, in defiance of those sanitary laws which men enact for their own protection.

COPELAND'S DICTIONARY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE. — It is portioned out to the fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, in annual doses, a bit at a time, with a prospect of its reaching the letter Z before the close of the present century. Should any one be alive at the completion of the work, he ought to command the respect due to a venerable old age. The number of articles ranging along under the first part of the alphabet that may be obsolete when the last are delivered, will afford a capital topic for an anniversary discourse. Pleasures excessively prolonged, produce sad effects upon the nervous system. There is no calculating the amount of sensorial disturbance that may have arisen in fifty years of ecstasy over Copeland's Dictionary.

BLINDNESS IN BRAZIL. — St. Luzia being the patroness of the sightless, her shrine is extremely popular, vast numbers of the slaves being blind. It is curious that the Saint is fixed at the extremity of the church, holding two eyes on a plate. Rather than tamper with old women and quacks, they prefer the saints. It is more economical, and besides they do no harm.

TO THE DEANS OF MEDICAL COLLEGES.—By sending blocks or plates on which are views of the public edifices belonging to such institutions, which not unfrequently appear on the covers of their annual circulars, through an express, to The Medical World, No. 78 Washington street, Boston, they will be inserted in this work, accompanied by such descriptions or other particulars of interest to the medical public, as may be furnished from a responsible source, free of all expense. This may be advantageous both to the schools and the general medical community. They will be returned immediately after being used.

BEER DRINKING.—Perhaps it may be looked upon as out of place in these intellectual times, to warn people against the growing vice of beer-drinking. With an increase of customers, and no corresponding growth of hops, there must be strange drugs introduced into ale and beer. The fuddling properties of *Coccus Indicus*, and aloes, are represented to enter largely into the composition of some of these beverages. The effect is to stupefy the individual, destroy his appetite, and in some instances, when the habit of beer-drinking is confirmed, to produce a kind of chronic looseness of the bowels which is charged to all causes but the right one. Let the beer alone.

ABORTIONS AT THE KINGSMILL ISLANDS.—A woman there seldom has more than two, and never more than three living children, says Capt. Wilkes. After the birth of a third, they consider it necessary to prevent the increase of their families, and resort to that most unnatural act, a systematic abortion. So soon as a woman believes herself to be *enciente* for the third or fourth time, (continues that celebrated navigator,) she determines that the offspring shall not survive, and calls in the aid of an experienced midwife to destroy it, who effects the purpose by external pressure on the abdomen, or back, and though not unattended with much pain and difficulty to the mother, the operation very rarely proves fatal. This practice, Capt. Wilkes informs us, is looked upon without any sort of horror or shame, being considered as a necessary and proper means to prevent their families from becoming so large as to be a burden to them, and not because the island might become overpeopled, for the latter idea does not seem ever to have occurred to them. The practice of destroying the fœtus is universal among the unmarried females, but children are never destroyed at birth. The same custom does not prevail at Makin, another similar island.

MIXTURE OF RACES IN BRAZIL.—Such is the extraordinary mingling of blood in that country, that singular varieties of color are seen in the same family. It is not uncommon to see a family of persons with complexions ranging between cinnamon and olive.

A PATIENT'S OPINION OF HIS CASE.—Some persons send for a physician, and then undertake to instruct him in regard to what he is to do. Of all bores, this is one of the worst, when the individual is an ignoramus. No others ever presume to insult an intelligent practitioner in that manner. It may be pleasant to hear the clack of one's own tongue, but it is a nuisance to a man who is responsible to society for bad practice. A mechanic props up an old edifice without being annoyed by the owner respecting the kind of timber used for braces. The same man does not hesitate to tell the doctor his child shall not take an emetic, or be vaccinated, because he don't believe in the efficacy of either. To contend with disease in all its Protæan forms, calls for the exercise of the highest order of faculties.

POPULAR BEVERAGES.—Soda water, the most common of all the warm weather drinks, is very grateful to the palate, and taken moderately, is not injurious, provided the tank from whence it is drawn has no copper surface exposed to the action of the fluid it contains. But the guzzling of soda water from morning to night, is a pernicious habit, destructive to the digestive machinery. Unwilling as most persons are to fall back on good, wholesome water, which God in his providence has fitted precisely to meet the demands of animal life, if they would avoid all factitious drinks, they would rarely require medical assistance to the end of the longest life.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.—No stronger evidences exist of the advanced civilization of the Western continent, young as it is in the history of nations, than the provisions which have already been made, and are still making for the insane. If every State in the Union has not its lunatic hospital, it ought to have one. Yet it is melancholy indeed, that in this land of freedom, the increasing number of insane men and women, in the meridian of life, is supposed to be increasing, instead of diminishing with the multiplication of institutions for their treatment. This augmentation is a striking fact. Where comforts and facilities for social enjoyment and refinements which accompany wealth, abound, there also misery abounds. A majority of this class of sufferers, however, are not the rich, the cultivated, or sentimental. Whether by contrasting their individual circumstances under a pressure of wants, with the facilities, blessings, and happy fortune of multitudes, imagined to be forever above and beyond the sphere of their aspirations, is a proximate cause of this peculiar state of things, medical philosophers must determine.

Take Massachusetts as an example of what has been gained for society by age, an admirable system of popular education, and enormous centralized riches in a small territory. It now maintains two large lunatic hospitals,—one being at Worcester, and the other at Taunton; and a third is going up in the beautiful

town of Northampton. In connection with these, contemplate several private receptacles,—independent enterprises, and lastly the McLean Asylum at Somerville. At this rate of increase, the whole body politic will be in the lock-ups by the time a few more presidential elections come round.

But we have no intention of discussing the causes of insanity, and therefore proceed with the fifteenth annual report of the New Hampshire Asylum,—a noble and finely conducted establishment, in the city of Concord, a region of rural felicities.

John E. Tyler, M. D., is medical superintendent. His report shows good judgment. It is short and to the point. Nobody can afford to read a tedious, prosy statistical dissertation, as though it were the last novel. Moreover, trustees, much like other human beings, become comatose over dulness. Some of these annual reports are as soporific as McMunn's mixture.

Dr. Tyler says at the onset that he had 155 patients under treatment May 31st, 1855, and since, 95 have been received. Discharged recovered, 66; now remaining, 154. Not a syllable has been introduced expressive of his opinion upon this point or that,—touching the causes of insanity, which is both the burden and the bane of many reports for the first few years after an official medical notability comes into position. Dr. Tyler must have profited by Dr. Bell's manner of approaching a board of trustees, the bugbears who put in or out of office. Dr. Bell was an excellent medical manager, and is a terse, piquant writer when he feels the spirit move.

Throughout New England in particular, and wherever New Englanders go, they are gratified with knowing the price attending any thing involving expense. According to the auditor, Samuel Herbert, Esq., the receipts for the past year were \$25,327.71. Outgoes, \$25,317.71; and cash on hand, \$10,000. Improvements have been completed within the same period, costing \$33,344.82. New Hampshire should sustain the asylum with a liberal hand, for it is an honor to the State.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA.—Although a convention of the medical men of the State was held in March last at Sacramento, no particular notice of the event has been recorded in this direction. The object was the formation of a State Medical Society. A large number of highly educated, energetic physicians and surgeons who originated at the East, and who were animated with that spirit of enterprise which characterizes the race from which they sprang, wisely resolved to copy the medical institutions of their old homes, to secure the honor and qualifications of the profession in the new country in which their destiny has been cast.

It was an event in the history of a new State which came suddenly into the fellowship of the Union, without passing through many of those changes which

characterize the youth of a people. California was suddenly peopled with full grown, intelligent men. It was not necessary for the children to grow up and mature before taking a place in the catalogue of organized community. There were no children—the country had a constitutional number of adults in the beginning, to commence the business of a sovereign, independent State.

This will explain the rise and inauguration of a medical institution at an early period, which under ordinary circumstances, would have been slow in its development, and one of the last to have been constructed in the ordinary course of events.

The result being announced, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected as officers for the ensuing year:

B. F. Keene, El Dorado, President; E. S. Cooper, San Francisco, S. Langdon, San Joaquin, D. W. C. Rice, Yuba, R. K. Reid, San Joaquin, F. W. Hatch, Sacramento, Vice Presidents; Thos. M. Logan, Sacramento, Corresponding Secretary; G. Taylor, Sacramento, W. P. Tilden, Shasta, Recording Secretaries; B. B. Brown, Sacramento, Treasurer; J. M. Williamson, J. P. Whitney, J. F. Morse, A. B. Stout, H. M. Gray, H. W. Harkness, I. E. Oatman, Sacramento, Censors.

On the third day of the Convention, the following committees were announced by the President.

Committee on Practical Medicine, Medical Literature and Hygiene.—Drs. J. P. Whitney, I. E. Oatman, A. J. Spencer, Jos. M. Frey and F. P. Wierzbicki.

Committee on Surgery.—Drs. H. M. Gray, W. G. Proctor, A. J. Bowie, H. H. Toland, J. Ridgely.

Committee on Obstetrics.—Drs. H. Houghton, H. Gibbons, J. B. Gray, D. Dustin, J. F. Montgomery.

Committee on Medical Topography, Meteorology, Endemics and Epidemics.—Drs. R. K. Reid, A. B. Stout, S. Earle, F. W. Hatch, Jr., J. W. Reins.

Committee on Indigenous Botany and Domestic Adulteration of Drugs.—Drs. B. B. Brown, H. Behr, G. Taylor, Chas. Burrell and W. P. Gibbons.

Committee on Medical Education.—Drs. Jno. F. Morse, R. B. Ellis, W. P. Tilden, T. T. McLane, A. W. Bell.

Committee on Publication.—Drs. A. B. Stout, Jno. F. Morse, T. M. Logan, G. Taylor, W. P. Tilden.

Committee of Arrangements.—Drs. J. F. Montgomery, G. J. Phelan, T. M. Morton, G. Taylor, H. W. Harkness.

The Board of Censors, through their Chairman, Dr. Gray, of San Francisco, reported the following names as entitled to the privilege of membership, viz.: Drs. C. B. Zabriskie, E. B. H. Dodson, — Fitch, — Kelley.

Dr. Harvey offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That this Society earnestly recommend to the profession in the different counties of the State, the immediate organization of County Medical Associations, that they may be prepared to co-operate with the State Medical Society in promoting the cause of the profession.

Dr. McLane offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, As the sense of the State Medical Society of the State of California, that we deem it to be proper to express our opinion, as medical men, upon the impropriety of removing, for political reasons, capable and faithful medical officers from positions which they may hold in our State Medical Institutions. That such removals are unjust to such medical men, disastrous in their effects upon the sick or insane, who are the subjects of the charities of the State, and not in accordance with the sentiments and wishes of the people of the State. In confirmation of the opinion herein expressed, this Society deprecate the removal of Dr. R. K. Reid from his position as Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, and express the hope that the services of so able and faithful an officer may be retained by the State.

On motion, the above resolution was laid on the table.

They propose a medical journal, under the editorial direction of J. F. Morse. The design is a quarterly, provided two hundred subscribers are secured. We will send them *The Medical World* to the remotest corner of California, once a week, cheaper than Dr. Morse could furnish a quarterly. Any communications from the profession will be cheerfully inserted and extra copies sent to the author free of charge,—save the postage.

The annual tax upon the members of the California Medical Society is five dollars—two more than in Massachusetts, but they reside in the gold diggings, while we are obliged to pick up the dust by the hardest of all labor, the practice of medicine.

All the proceedings were marked by a high sense of the responsibilities resting upon the members. They intend by all fair and honorable effort to sustain the character of the profession above reproach. Next, a medical college will be incorporated, and then California will quietly take position among the well-regulated parts of the globe.

UNRECOGNIZED FORMS OF LUNACY.—In this country, as in England and all other civilized countries there are men and women laboring under peculiar forms of insanity, who are permitted to become sources of annoyance to certain individuals, but their monomania is of a character that no forms of law precisely reach, for abating the nuisance. Two harmless monomaniacs have been permitted to intrude themselves into all circles and places in this region, for the past few years, who announced themselves presidential candidates. One of the two has finally been provided for in a hospital.

A venerable man died in Boston within our recollection, who many years in succession, insisted upon becoming the husband of a lady of eminent position. His letters, sonnets, omnipresence, and professed attentions, were so civil, that no resort to law was attempted, and no one considered him insane. His case bore considerable resemblance to Mr. Dunn's, which follows.

A maiden lady, who sometime since determined to move the pillars of society and overturn the present social structure, to accomplish certain reforms on another

continent, must have been as much of a lunatic as Mr. Dunn; yet she has so ingeniously interwoven her philanthropic schemes with the religious element, people put up with her vagaries, impertinence, and so-called eccentricities, because the cause was good, and for one dollar, up to ten, they could bow her out of the drawing-room, without being decidedly rude.

Every community has its monomaniacs; but the admirer of Miss Coutts, the richest woman on the globe, is particularly striking.

Mr. Dunn; the monomaniac barrister, and the systematic persecutor of Miss B. Coutts, has at last been fairly run down and brought to bay. He is now in the safe custody of the officials of Bethlehem or St. Luke's. It is a disgrace to the state of law that this lunatic should have been permitted to be at large for so long a period. For five years he has been allowed to annoy Miss Burdett Coutts, under the dominion of a delusion that that amiable and excellent lady had encouraged his matrimonial intentions, and had even promised him marriage! To such an extent did this maniac carry on his cruel persecution, that Miss Coutts was of late not able to leave her own residence without having close at hand an official protector. He constantly pestered her with letters, threatened her with every kind of annoyance and ill-treatment short of death, if she did not fully admit his claim to her hand, or place to his credit at her bank some £ 20,000 or £ 30,000! This lunatic was allowed with impunity to thus harass and worry this lady without any steps having been taken by the Commissioners in Lunacy to put an end to his disgraceful proceedings. So matters would have progressed until some fatal catastrophe had aroused public indignation, had Mr. Dunn not interfered with the sacred domain and circle of Royalty. Having written to the Princess Mary, under the influence of some delusion, immediately the strong arm of the law is put into operation, and Mr. Dunn is at once brought before a magistrate, his sad state recognized, and he is consigned forthwith to a lunatic asylum. Why was not this measure adopted before? Let the "gentlemen of the long robe" answer the question. If the law is so defective that dangerous and mischievous lunatics like Mr. Dunn cannot be dealt with, the sooner legislative attention is called to the matter the better. If the Commissioners in Lunacy have no authority to interfere in cases like this, then the statute under which they act is obviously defective. Mr. Dunn's insanity has not altogether escaped the observation and comment of the psychological physician. We well recollect during the period of Dr. Forbes Winslow's official connection, as President, with the Medical Society of London, he, at the opening of the session of 1854, read an essay "On some Unrecognized Forms of Mental Disorders." In this paper he pointedly referred to the case of Mr. Dunn, as one of a type of unrecognized lunatics permitted to be at large.

LAWS OF HEALTH.—Like the usury laws of Massachusetts, they are habitually violated every day in the week, by the very men who refuse to have them modified. God's laws are immutable; but with a full knowledge of the penalty that follows a non-compliance with their simple requirements, which secure health of body and mind, man shuts his eyes to the impending danger, and thus subjects himself to unnecessary pain, premature decay, and a short life

IOWA MEDICAL COLLEGE.—In the beautiful and enterprising city of Keokuk, lying on the Mississippi, just above the junction of the Des Moines river, which we recently had the pleasure of visiting, a new medical college has been organized, and a course of lectures will commence on the first Monday in November. Matriculation \$5.00, which never ought to be exacted of students any where; lecture fee, \$80.00; and graduation, \$25.00.

People in the sea-bordering States are quite unwilling to credit what is said of the rapid development, resources, wealth and civilization of the West. While the capitalists are pondering and doubting, they will awake from a Rip Van Winkle slumber by and by to a startling realization of the fact, that half their trade has been diverted away, and politically and commercially the old Eastern and Southern States are left in the rear of a fast coach.

Old, strong, and richly endowed institutions of learning are in a similar condition of incredulity.—They don't precisely comprehend how the West can attend to the details of education. A notion is extensively entertained that the ambition of the people is essentially to raise wheat, take up land claims, and hunt buffaloes.

Within thirty years, the lands donated by government for the support of colleges and common schools in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa,—to say nothing of those vast territories, Kansas and Nebraska, either of which is larger than all the New-England States together,—will possess enormous wealth. Already the great Medical School of the University of Michigan makes no charge for a course of lectures, equal in point of scientific weight and character, to any delivered where age is conceived to have given the grace of perfection.

This Iowa school of medicine will soon exercise an important influence. The location is favorable, the faculty are men of enterprise, who have had a training both at home and abroad to command respect, or silence the carpings of envy.

B. F. Stephenson, M. D., Professor of General, Special and Surgical Anatomy. J. F. Sanford, M. D., Professor of Principles and Practice in Surgery and Clinical Surgery. E. C. Francis, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children, and Dean of the Faculty. T. L. Wright, M. D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine. G. B. Parker, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics. S. B. Davis, M. D., Professor of Physiology and Pathology. J. S. Martin, M. D., Professor Chemistry and Toxicology. C. Allen, M. D., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

KLACKAMUS MEDICINE MEN.—Among other strange notions, the Klackamus Indians, who inhabit the Willamette Valley in Oregon, stand in constant fear of their native doctors after death, as well as while living. But with all the awe they inspire, it is no sinecure to be a medicine man. If they are un-

successful in curing a patient, they are obliged to pay roundly or lose their own lives. When Mr. Drayton was there in 1841, the chief accepted a horse and some small articles, by way of commutation of a doctor who failed to cure his sick wife. The tribe are equally exacting of white physicians who visit them. A Mr. Black, a Northern trader, was shot dead by an Indian to whose father he had charitably given some medicines, but who died soon after.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.—For many years this has been a prosperous institution. The catalogue of students in attendance on the lectures last season, is a formidable document. Young America is recognized. That soporific influence which puts a whole class to sleep, like the inhalation of chloroform, is unknown there. Prof. Flint is an old familiar Bostonian. The resignation of Prof. Gross is not only a severe loss to the University, but to the Society of Louisville. He is a man with a soul.

Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, has won a prize in securing the celebrated author and no less brilliant lecturer and surgical operator, in the person of Dr. Gross. Strike out boldly for talent; that is the way to build up a medical school. To destroy the reputation of a very good one, let the faculty keep all the offices in a clique. Perpetual intermarriages soon terminate the existence of a family.

This is what the circular says:—

The ensuing session will open on Monday, the 3d of November, with a single public introductory, and on the following day the regular lectures will commence, and will continue until the 1st of March, without interruption, except for a holiday at *Thanksgiving* and *Christmas*.

There will be a preliminary course, beginning the 6th of October, and closing with the opening of the session. This course will consist of clinical lectures at the Hospital, and daily lectures at the College, upon subjects which cannot be fully taught during the winter session. The preliminary course will be free to all matriculated students of the University, and although it will not interfere with the integrity of the lectures during the regular session, yet students are recommended to avail themselves of its advantages, especially as the dissecting rooms will be opened early in the month.

The Museum is rich in the materials of illustration.

In the several departments of anatomy, human, comparative, and pathological, the collection of specimens, models, and preparations, is extensive and varied. The osseous, ligamentous, vascular, nervous, and muscular systems of man are exhibited in numerous preparations skilfully made from the human subject, besides which there are numerous models in wood, plaster, and wax, useful in demonstration to the class. A striking and beautiful part of the collection consists in a series of models, by Auzoux, representing the nervous system, and the respiratory, digestive and circulatory apparatus of the several families of the animal kingdom. From the Museum of Thibert, in Paris, a splendid series of models has been procured, within the last four years, illustrative of disease in the various parts of the body. These models are executed with remarkable skill, and have been found of

eminent advantage in the lectures on pathological anatomy, obstetrics, medicine, and surgery.

1. The candidate for the degree of *Doctor of Medicine* must have attained the age of twenty-one years, and sustain a good moral character.

2. He must have attended two complete courses of lectures, the last of which, at least, shall have been in this institution.

3. He must also have taken the ticket of the Demonstrator one session, or been engaged in dissections under a competent teacher; and must have attended one course of Clinical instruction at the Louisville Marine Hospital, or in some other institution approved by the Faculty.

4. Students who have attended a full course of lectures in a respectable medical school, and physicians who have been engaged for four years, or more, in reputable practice, after a regular course of study under a preceptor, are admitted to examination in this school after attendance upon one complete course, and are charged no lecture-fees for attending a second term.

5. Candidates, at the time of applying to the Dean for admission, are required to exhibit their tickets, as proof of their compliance with the above rules, and to produce a Thesis on some medical subject composed by themselves. In the event of withdrawal or rejection, the Thesis, together with the graduation fee, is returned to the candidate.

6. The voting on the case of each candidate is by private ballot, and if there be three negative votes he is rejected.

SURGICAL ADJUSTER.—Not many years ago, an instrument was invented and patented, called a *surgical adjuster*, which received the approbation of many distinguished surgeons both here and in Europe. It was a powerful lever, for reducing luxations. "What has become of it? Why has it been abandoned?" And similar interrogatories induce us to extend the inquiry. Who will favor the medical world with an answer?

Dr. Jarvis, if we recollect, who resided at Portland, Conn., had interviews with most of the London surgeons, and brought home certificates eminently encouraging. It is a pity that prejudice should stand as a dark cloud between the adjuster and a patient, if the invention is as meritorious as it was then supposed. If over-rated, and novelty raised a glow of unwarrantable enthusiasm, it would be equally satisfactory to to know that fact, also.

AMERICAN DENTISTRY.—Those who have had opportunities for inspecting the work of European dentists, can alone fully appreciate the superiority of American skill in this extensive field of enterprise. Filling, among themselves, is considered by the dentists, extremely difficult. No doubt, in charging from ten to twenty dollars for plugging a single tooth, it must be so, since it would be rank extortion, were the price not proportioned to the time and gold required in the operation. Dentists are multiplying fast, but defective teeth, requiring their assistance, infinitely faster. There are gradations in their ranks, as with

physicians: some take large fees — some nothing at all. Fashion unquestionably has something to do with both. A dentist of polished, courtly manners, will succeed anywhere. An abrupt, fretful, harsh operator, sets limits to his own patronage. In the manufacture and insertion of artificial teeth, American dentists out-distance those of all other countries.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.—An adjourned meeting of this venerable association was held in Boston last Wednesday morning. The attendance, however, was small, when the numbers belonging to the society are taken into consideration. The principal business, while we were present, was to accept certain proposed amendments of the by-laws. Next, it was voted to republish all the by-laws, for the use of the fellows.

A motion to adjourn followed, and thus ended the session. The officers were requested by the chair to remain.

This could not have been thought a particularly instructive convocation even by those who admire still life. In Ohio, they complain that the harmony of the Medical Society was disturbed by one Wright, who is always wrong. It appears they do n't like his speeches. No annoyances of that character have been inflicted upon medical societies in New England of late. Some few have had the presumption to intimate in a whisper; that a little good speaking occasionally would be acceptable; but such forwardness has been seasonably rebuked, so that a quiet gravity befitting a solemn occasion is generally apparent in every countenance.

PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL WORLD.

Childs & Peterson, of Philadelphia, are now supplying subscribers with Dr. Kane's "Arctic Explorations." The work is got up in 2 vols. 8vo, profusely illustrated, and is altogether one of the handsomest books ever issued in America. Dr. Kane, we regret to state, is in most feeble health, still suffering from the scurvy, and physically much debilitated by continued cares and anxieties, attending no less the preparation of the narrative, than the prosecution of the voyages themselves. It is very gratifying indeed to be able to say, that as far as public appreciation can recompense his toils, it has been amply and generously manifested. The sale of his interesting volumes, though at present confined to subscribers, has nearly exhausted two editions, one of 25,000 and the other of 10,000 copies, and it is confidently anticipated that the general circulation, when it comes to be offered publicly through the booksellers, will be correspondingly large. Without disclosing the secrets of the trade too glaringly, we may be permitted to observe that there can be no reasonable doubt of Dr. Kane receiving, under the very liberal copyright arrangement with his publishers, a sum of money which in this country can assure a comfortable independence. It is worthy of remark that books of the description which Dr. Kane has prepared, though perhaps a little more scientific, have never met with a circulation in

England, at all to be compared with this one. From a person well informed upon such subjects, we understand that no volume upon Arctic discoveries published in England has ever reached a second edition of 1000 copies. In the hope of restoring his health Dr. Kane will, in a few days, depart for Europe.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Arrangements will soon be completed for having a full and reliable synopsis of whatever is most interesting to the profession, in all the principal cities of the United States.

The price is less than any other Medical Journal in America, containing the same amount of matter. Its frequent appearance, freshness, and energy, freighted as it will be with every variety of medical intelligence, cannot fail of making *The Medical World* a welcome messenger to the profession.

Subscriptions are received for six, nine, or twelve months, — which makes it a very economical journal, and within the reach of every medical gentleman throughout the Union. The money must invariably be paid in advance, by mail, or through expressmen and agents. The publishing offices are centrally located in the centre of business, and accessible at all hours, No. 16 Devonshire street, Damrell & Moore, and George Coolidge's large Printing Office, and at James French & Co.'s, No. 78 Washington street, south of the head of State street.

ADVERTISING.—Druggists, Apothecaries, Manufacturers of Surgical Apparatus, Chemists, and Publishers of Medical and other kinds of Scientific Works, will find this journal a valuable medium for acquainting the public with their locations and facilities for trade.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Several communications are received, soon to appear. It is necessary to intermit one week more, in order to ascertain the number of copies of *The Medical World* to print. It will then be promptly published every Wednesday.

MARRIAGES.

At Almira, Conn., H. C. Boardman, Esq., to Miss Adelaide L., daughter of Dr. H. S. Chubbuck. At Plymouth, Conn., J. B. Clarke, Esq., to Miss Sarah P., daughter of Dr. A. B. Doolittle. In New York, Frank S. Edwards, M. D., to Miss E. A. Goodwin. G. Hawley, Esq., to Miss S. A., daughter of Dr. C. Booth, of Newtown, Conn. H. Huntington, Esq., to Miss C. B., daughter of the late Dr. George Sumner, of Hartford, Conn. Dr. Benj. S. Shaw, of Boston, to Miss A. C. T. Hastings, of Cambridge, Mass.

George T. Townsend, M. D., South Natick, Mass., to Miss M. M. Buck.

DEATHS.

At Hartford, Conn., Dr. John Schue, 51. At Sharon, Conn., Dr. Chauncey Reid, 48. At Litchfield, Conn., Loomis North, M. D., 45. In Vergennes, Vt., Austin Bradford, M. D., 57, of biliary calculi.

Dr. Wm. H. Allen, of Machias, Maine, was instantly killed, Sept. 24, by the accidental discharge of a gun. He was returning from a hunting excursion, and in changing his gun from one shoulder to the other, the hammer caught and the rifle was discharged, the ball passing through his head, killing him instantly. He was about 25 years old, of excellent habits, and leaves a wife.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 4.

Margaret O'Brien, 1 mo, Ralph Morton 16 do, Dennis Sullivan 12 do, John Sullivan 18 do, Margaret Cahill 9 do, Ellen Mahoney 7 do, Edw. Cusack 8 do, Windsor Lord 59 yrs, Chas. McCarthy 66 do, Matthias O'Connor 82 do, Jeremiah Donovan 2 do, Mary Stanley 40 do, Hannah Gibbons 44 do, Maurice M. Lalor 4 do, Honora Lane 80 do, Catherine Haskins 45 do, John Harrigan 2 do, Karlina Muller 8 mos, George H. Penney 3 do, Charles H. Masters 5 do, Thos. H. Perkins, 16 do, John McCue 3 do, Sam'l K. Milligan 1 do, Susan Mooney 45 yrs, Pat. McCarty 2 do, Louisa A. Carnes 30 do, Maria L. Palmer 31 do, Hannah E. Bradlee 69 do, Mary A. Plunkett 9 do, Rose Fitzgerald 34 do, Mary E. Lees 12 mos, Alexander Burns 17 do, Harriet O'Donovan 15 do, Joshua H. Pierce 12 do, Honora Hayes 11 do, Elizabeth A. Jordan 16 do, John A. Stone 22 yrs, Elizabeth Wright 45 do, Henry M. Holman 24 do, A. L. Ashe 48 do, Geo. Mullen 4 do, Mary Gorman 72 do, M. Gallagher, 29 do, G. Beatty 7 ds., Amelia D. Schwarz 30 yrs., Bridget Farrell, 44 do., Alonzo Stearns, 3 mos., Jane Freeman, 80 years, Mary C. Bartlett, 55 do., Jeremiah Callahan, 58 do., John Abbott, 32 do., Lydia Hurtig, 4 do., Sarah Menzeo, 27 do., James F. Whittemore, 31 do., Simeon F. Lord, 5 do., Josephine E. Room, 3 mos., Catherine Crocker, 6 do., Julia Byrnes, 14 do., Frank P. Wilds, 15 do., Amee L. Morrill, 7 do., Frederico Goddard, 4 yrs., Ann Manning, 31 do., Eliza Black, 25 do., Ellen Connelly, 2 do., John Grosse, 26 do., Joseph Austin, 2 do., Margaret Degnum, 50 do., John O'Donohoe, 18 do., Samuel Rose, 2 do., John Baldwin, 30 do., Frank A. Kean, 13 mos., Alvin V. Odell, 28 years, Albert McComing, 40 do., Rufina F. Heyer, 3 do., Elizabeth Garbett, 71 do., Ellen Welch, 90 do., Margaret McConologue, 42 do., Hattie S. Pratt, 12 mos., Julia Ahearn, 1 day, Francis C. Still, 39 years, Sarah Lombard, 50 do., Wm. H. Lewis, 6 do., Elizabeth Patten, 55 do.

DISEASES.—Consumption 17, croup 3, cholera infantum 10, dysentery 2, debility 2, dropsy in head 5, infantile diseases 2, unknown do. 4, typhoid fever 2, scarlet do 6, hooping cough 2, inflammation of lungs 6, old age 4, suffocation 2, teething 5, other diseases 1 each, 11; males 38, females 45; total 83. 54 were born in the United States, Ireland 22, England 3, other foreign places 4.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

Life of Man.—The Duration of Human Life, and its Three Eras, when men attained to more than 900 Years of Age; when they attained to 450; when they reached to only Threescore and Ten; showing the probable Causes and material Agents that have shortened the lives of the human race, and the barriers that prevent a return to the longevity of the early Patriarchs, by Joel Pinney. In press.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

OCTOBER 22, 1856.

NUMBER 4.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE THEODORIC ROMEYN BECK, M. D., LL. D.

The family of Dr. Beck was of English origin. The first of whom we find any account was Caleb Beck, who sailed as master of a vessel from Boston to England, and who, having married at Schenectady, was subsequently lost at sea. His son, the great grandfather of the subject of our memoir, as is learned from the probate of his will before the commissioners at Albany, in the year 1733, was "Caleb Beck, gentleman, a freeholder in this colony; having, during his life, and at the time of his death, goods, rights and credits in divers places in our province." The family was so long settled at Schenectady that it became, by intermarriage and association, identified with the Dutch population. The grandfather of Dr. Beck was admitted an attorney-at-law, to practise in all the courts, at Albany, in the year 1751.

The ancestral name, Caleb, seems to have been preserved through five successive generations, having ceased with the late Dr. Lewis C. Beck, the youngest brother of the subject of the present memoir.

The father of the subject of our memoir studied law, but never practised. He married Catherine Theresa Romeyn, only daughter of the Rev. Derrick Romeyn, D. D. The Romeyn family came from Holland, and settled in New York, about the middle of the seventeenth century. The father of Mrs. Beck was pastor of the Reformed Dutch Church in Schenectady, at the time of her marriage, and was well known as a distinguished professor of theology in that church. Her brother, Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D., died in New York in 1825, and her cousin, Nicholas Romeyne, M. D., was one of the founders, and first President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York, and President of the New York State Medical Society from 1808 to

1811, and was elected an honorary member of the same in 1812.

The fruits of this honorable connection were five sons, all of whom became distinguished in after life, viz.: Theodoric Romeyn Beck, the subject of the present sketch, who was born at Schenectady, in the State of New York, on the 11th day of August, 1791:

Abraham Beck, the second son, who was a lawyer of much promise, and died at St. Louis, in 1821:

John Brodhead Beck, M. D., who died in New York in 1851. He was elected a member of the New York State Medical Society in 1829, and was, at the time of his death, Professor of Materia Medica and Botany, in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of New York. He was author of many medical works besides the chapter contributed by him to *Beck's Medical Jurisprudence*:

Nicholas Fairly Beck, who died in 1830, while holding the office of Adjutant General of the State under De Witt Clinton: and

Lewis Caleb Beck, M. D., who died in 1853. He was Professor of Chemistry in the Albany Medical College, and in Rutgers College, New Jersey, and author of several scientific works, among which, is the volume on Mineralogy, one of the most valuable of the contributions in the State Report of the scientific corps, to whom science is indebted for the Natural History of the State of New York.

The father of these five extraordinary men died in 1798, at the early age of twenty-seven years, leaving his sons to the sole care of his young widow, who is represented as having been a woman of indomitable energy, sound education, piety, and good judgment. We regret that we know no more of this remarkable woman. The distinction which all her sons subsequently attained is an enduring monument to her greatness. In this connection the words of King Lemuel, Proverbs xxxi. 10-31,

are brought forcibly to mind. Under the roof of her eldest son, the subject of this memoir, this excellent woman found a welcome shelter in her declining years, where, at all times, her wants were more than supplied, and her counsels and precepts were reverentially respected. She died at the advanced age of 85 years.

T. ROMEYN BECK obtained the rudiments of his education at the grammar school of his native city, under the immediate supervision of his maternal grandfather, and, it is more than probable, that of his excellent mother. He entered Union College at Schenectady in 1803, and graduated in 1807, at the age of sixteen. This college had then been established but a few years, and owed its existence in great measure to the exertions of Rev. Dr. Romeyn.

Immediately on leaving college, young Beck decided on medicine as the profession of his choice, and went to Albany and was admitted into the office of Drs. Low and McClelland. He, however, subsequently proceeded to the city of New York, and entered the office of Dr. David Hosack. Here he attended the lectures at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, then recently established, and in 1811 received the degree of Doctor in Medicine, on which occasion he presented, as the subject of his inaugural thesis, a paper on Insanity. This was the first fruits of the study of that subject which afterwards engaged so large a share of his attention, and upon which he expended such stores of learning, and exhibited such powers of research. The thesis was published in pamphlet form, containing thirty-four pages, and received from various quarters highly flattering notices. In it he devotes a chapter to medical jurisprudence and police, and a section to the treatment of the insane, wherein he protests against the confinement of criminal lunatics in jails, as incompatible with proper attendance, and with the safety of the other prisoners. He advocates, also, the establishment of public asylums, which shall be subject to the supervision and control of competent commissioners.

After his graduation, he at once commenced the practice of medicine and surgery in Albany, and was soon appointed physician to the almshouse. His tastes, however, seem to have been decidedly of a scientific and literary character, and, as early as 1813, we find his name upon the list of counsellors of the "Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts." He became connected with this society in 1812, and although only in his twenty-first year, he was made chairman of a standing committee of

five, appointed "for the purpose of collecting and arranging such minerals as our State affords." Less than two months after his admission into the society, he was appointed to deliver the annual address at its next session. This address was delivered on the 3d of February, 1813, and its purpose was to "exhibit at one view, the mineral riches of the United States, with their various application to the arts, and to demonstrate the practicability of the increase of different manufactures, whose materials are derived from this source."

In 1814, Dr. Beck was married to Harriet, daughter of James Caldwell, Esq., a well-known citizen of Albany. His wife, who was a woman of rare accomplishments and of refined sentiments, died in 1823, at the early age of thirty-one years, leaving two daughters, who lived to be a solace and comfort to their father in his old age, and ministering angels at his death-bed. It is said that the greater part of his work on *Medical Jurisprudence* was written while watching at the bedside of his wife during her last and painfully protracted illness—a most touching memorial to her virtues, and to the kindness of his own heart.

In 1815, at the age of twenty-four, Dr. Beck received the appointment of Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and of Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence in the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the Western District of New York. This College was located at Fairfield, in Herkimer County, and for thirty years maintained a high and deserved rank among the medical institutions of the country. The enterprise was started about the year 1812 and abandoned in 1840. In 1826 he was made Professor instead of Lecturer of Medical Jurisprudence, and in 1836, was transferred from the chair of Practice to that of *Materia Medica* in accordance with his own request. These two chairs he continued to occupy until the abandonment of the College in 1840.

But while Dr. Beck was very fond of the science of medicine, he did not like the practice. In a letter to his uncle, Dr. Romeyn, then in Europe, dated June 30, 1814, he says: "I have begun to look upon medicine in a very different manner from what I formerly did. Although delighted with the study, yet I dislike the practice, and had not acquired sufficiently comprehensive views of its value and great importance as an object of research. I now find it a subject worthy of my mind, and for some time past I have brought all my energies to its examination."

But Dr. Beck found that the conscientious

discharge of his duties as a practitioner of medicine was incompatible with an indulgence in his literary tastes, without injury to his health. Consequently, in 1817, he abandoned the active duties of his profession, and accepted the appointment of Principal of the Albany Academy, which position he held till 1848, when he resigned. This arrangement did not interfere with his duties in the Medical School at Fairfield, nor with his interest in medicine as a science.

In 1823, Dr. Beck published his great work, entitled *Elements of Medical Jurisprudence*, in two volumes octavo. At the time of its publication, this work attracted much attention, both in this country and in Europe, and it continues to be a standard work on the subject of which it treats. It has passed through ten American, four London, and one German editions.

Dr. Beck was connected with several literary associations, and ever labored to advance the interests of science. He was one of the originators of the plan for the geological survey of the State of New York, and became one of its most ardent supporters. Under the successive Governors of the State he was intrusted with much of the supervision of the work. As evidence of the great part which he took in this labor, we subjoin the dedication of the 5th volume, on *Agriculture*, written by E. Emmons, M. D. : —

“*To T. Romeyn Beck, M. D., LL. D.*

“SIR : There is more than one reason why the concluding divisions of the present work, undertaken to explore and illustrate the natural history of the State of New York, and conducted under legislative patronage, should be dedicated to you.

“You were among the first to foster the enterprise, and remained its consistent advocate in times when adverse circumstances seemed to jeopardize its continuance ; much more than this, your whole life has been assiduously engaged in promoting the advance of science, and the spread of popular education, and the published results of your scientific and literary labors may be referred to as reflecting an honor upon your native State. Would that the merits of the present volume were such as to render it more worthy its dedication.”

In 1829 Dr. Beck was elected President of the New York State Medical Society, and was re-elected the two succeeding years. His first annual address was devoted mainly to the subject of “Medical Evidence ;” his second was

on “The Progress of the Science of Medicine,” and his third was on the subject of “Smallpox.”

In 1841, immediately after the abandonment of the Fairfield Medical School, Dr. Beck accepted an appointment to the Chair of Materia Medica in the Albany Medical College, which he held until 1854, when his declining health and other pressing duties induced him to resign, when he was immediately elected Emeritus Professor. From 1841 up to a short period before his death, Dr. Beck also occupied the responsible and honorable office of Secretary to the Board of Regents.

In April, 1842, by the act of incorporation of the New York State Lunatic Asylum, Dr. Beck was made one of the Board of Managers, and was continued in office until his death. After the death of Dr. Brigham, Dr. Beck was induced to assume the editorship of the *American Journal of Insanity*, and he continued to edit it to the close of the eleventh volume, in the spring of 1855. Up to the time of his death, Dr. Beck was a regular contributor to the pages of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, on the subject of Medical Jurisprudence.

There is, perhaps, no testimony so pertinent to the rank occupied by Dr. Beck in the literary and scientific world, as the large number of offices which he filled, and of societies, both at home and abroad, which conferred upon him either honorary or active memberships. He was elected Almshouse Physician, Albany, in 1811 ; Fel. Coll. of Phys. and Surg., N. Y., 1811 ; Med. Soc., State of N. Y., 1813 ; N. Y. Historical Society, 1813 ; Physo-Medical Soc., N. Y., 1815 ; Trustee of Albany Academy, 1815 ; Prof. Inst. of Med., Fairfield, 1815 ; Antiquarian Soc., Mass., 1816 ; Acad. of Nat. Sciences, Phila., 1816 ; Lyceum of Nat. History, N. Y., 1817 ; Am. Geological Soc., New Haven, 1819 ; Natural Hist. Soc., Montreal, 1821 ; Hon. Mem. of Med. Soc. of London, 1824 ; Hon. Mem. Med. Soc., Quebec, 1824 ; Cor. Mem. Linnæan Soc., Paris, 1826 ; Hon. Mem. Med. Soc., Conn., 1826 ; Hon. Mem. Nat. Hist. Soc., Montreal, 1827 ; Soc. of Emulation, Charleston, S. C., 1827 ; Med. Soc. of New Hampshire, 1828 ; Associate Coll. of Physicians, Phila., 1829 ; Hon. Mem. Ithaca Lyceum, 1830 ; Hon. Mem. West Point Lyceum, 1830 ; Alb. Co. Agricul. Soc., 1830 ; Hon. Mem. Royal Med. Soc. of Edinburgh, 1832 ; Philosoph. Soc. Rutgers Coll., 1833 ; Prof. Mat. Med. and Med. Jurisp. at Fairfield, 1836 ; Meteorological Soc.,

Lond., 1838; Am. Philosoph. Soc., Phila., 1839; Med. Soc., R. I., 1839; Nat. Inst. for Promotion of Science, Washington, 1840; Hist. Soc., Penn., 1841; Am. Ethnological Soc., 1842; Northern Acad. Arts and Sciences, Dartmouth, 1843; Cor. Fellow N. Y. Acad. of Medicine, 1847; Royal Soc. of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen, 1848; Hist. Soc., Vermont, 1850; Am. Statistical Soc., Boston, 1851; State Historical Soc., Wis., 1854; Degree of LL. D., by the Mercersburg College, Pa., 1849; the same Degree by Rutgers College, N. J.; Trustee State Lunatic Asylum, N. Y., and Pres. Board of Trustees; Pres. Board of Trustees Albany Academy, 1852; Mem. Ex. Com. Normal School; Emer. Prof. Albany Med. College, 1854.

To the inquiry, so natural to one who reflects upon the life and labors of Dr. Beck, "How has any man been able to accomplish so much in a single life?" the reply is — It was the result of system, indomitable perseverance, of ardent devotion and honesty of purpose, united to excellent talents. But no one quality so much contributed to his extraordinary attainments as that methodical improvement of time which he adopted from the first and retained to almost the last hours of his life. Every duty had its time and place, with which no other duties were allowed to interfere. A given portion of each day was assigned to a particular subject, and this arrangement was not to be interfered with. The morning study was never postponed to the evening, nor relaxation nor miscellaneous reading permitted until the allotted tasks were respectively despatched. Having determined, also, upon any great purpose, it was never relinquished until it was accomplished. With him there was no vacillation or uncertainty of design; and, at his death, nothing seems to have been left unfinished, but that one labor which he had undertaken, too late for its full completion, a memoir of his early friend and counselor, the lamented De Witt Clinton.

In conclusion we would be glad to give our readers the full account of the last illness of Dr. Beck as furnished by his attending physician, Dr. S. T. Willard, of Albany, but time and space will permit of only an outline. Suffice it to say, that, during life, Dr. Beck enjoyed almost uninterrupted health, and died at last of no evident organic disease, but rather from a failure of the powers of assimilation. In January, 1854, Dr. Beck suffered from an attack of indigestion, while busily engaged in

his official duties, and although he placed himself under medical treatment, he did not allow himself to be deterred from going to his office for a single day. He recovered nearly his usual health in a short time, but in February, 1855, was again taken ill, with symptoms precisely similar to those of the year previous. This attack was much more severe than the former one, and he was confined to his house a fortnight. He had a second attack in March. In June he visited his daughter, Mrs. Van Cortlandt, at Croton, and soon after, at the earnest solicitations of his friends, he went to Lake George to spend the summer months. Here, however, he indulged less in the social pleasures and rural sports than had been for many years his practice. He returned from Lake George on the 7th of September. On the 15th of September he left the State Library for the last time. About this time Dr. Hun began to attend him in connection with Dr. Willard. Towards the end of October, Dr. Willard Parker, of New York, was added to the consultation. "He received us," says Dr. Willard, "with great composure and cheerfulness, and made a clear, full statement of his case, speaking of himself as if he was not the person interested in the examination."

"After the consultation, we returned to his room; and Dr. Parker, taking his seat by him, kindly said, 'Now, doctor, we have asked you a great many questions; are there any you would like to ask us?' His reply was strictly characteristic of himself as a man of few words. He did not seek to evade the result of this investigation, but arrived at once at the conclusion by a single question that covered the whole subject — 'Can you get me well?' Dr. Parker told him that we were unable to detect organic disease, but there was a suspension in the process of assimilation; his food digested, but did not assimilate — 'The engine,' said he, 'you have, but the fuel fails to make it work.' Again he asked, 'Can you get in fuel that will?' The answers to these pointed inquiries were necessarily of a negative character; to which he replied, 'You make out my case very unfavorably.' In the afternoon of the same day, I found him cheerful, without having been fatigued by the morning interview; and he expressed some confidence in the efficacy of the nitro-muriatic acid sponge bath, which was suggested by Dr. Parker."

He slept well at night, until Nov. 11th, from which time he was restless, and unable longer to take nourishment. Total prostration

ensued; the powers of life failed; but he lingered until the morning of the 19th of November, when, gently as sleeps a child, the slumber of death came upon him. His age was sixty-four years and three months. Mr. and Mrs. Parmlee, Mrs. Van Cortlandt (his two daughters), and Dr. Willard, were with him when he died.

Autopsy, by Dr. Willard. Present—Drs. James McNaughton, March, Armsby, H. Townsend, Boyd, Cogswell, Hun, and Willard. The examination was held November 20, twenty-nine hours after death. The lungs were healthy. The heart was large, measuring from the apex, transversely, seven inches. There was, in patches, on the surface of the heart, especially near the posterior surface, near the origin of the blood-vessels, a soft fibrinous deposit, which was easily rubbed off. The walls of the left ventricle were from an inch to an inch and one-eighth in thickness. The aortic valves were thick and opaque. There was slight calcareous deposit on the mitral valve, with thickening and induration. The coronary arteries were ossified. The hepatic artery was thickened and indurated. The liver was congested and healthy, excepting the ramifications of the hepatic artery; these were indurated.

The Stomach.—The mucous membrane of the stomach was of a grayish color, except at the posterior part, where it was congested, and lined with a bloody mucus. There was thickening and induration of the pyloric orifice. The kidneys were somewhat shrivelled on the surface, but the texture was healthy.

The most remarkable appearance was the extreme emaciation. In health, Dr. Beck weighed two hundred and ten pounds; at the time of his death, he weighed not over one hundred pounds, and possibly not over ninety. He was fat, not muscular. Here, then, is a loss of one hundred and ten pounds certainly, and possibly one hundred and twenty pounds! [The change in his personal appearance was so great by this loss that his most intimate friends and colleagues could not recognize in his features anything to remind them of Dr. Beck.]

The progress of his illness was from February, 1855.* The heart was evidently in a state of hypertrophy; but the immediate cause of his death was *defect in his power to assimilate*.

* Period of illness, nine and a half months, though confined to the house only nine weeks.

Note.—Dr. Lewis C. Beck died in a similar manner. He was a spare man, and having no fat to consume, his

INQUESTS AND MEDICAL TRIALS.

DEATHS FROM FRACTURES AND OTHER INJURIES OF THE CERVICAL VERTEBRÆ.

CASE 1. — G. A. R——, a young artisan, about nineteen years of age, on the evening of July 8th, 1852, went to bathe in one of the ponds on Hampstead-heath. He undressed, and dived head-foremost off a bank into the pond, where the depth of water was about four feet. A companion, who observed with surprise and apprehension that he did not rise again, on noticing bubbles of air rising to the surface of the water, immediately called to another who was partially undressed, and who presently plunged into the pond and brought out the injured person in a position "doubled up," as described by this witness at the inquest. With great and praiseworthy promptitude the young men briskly rubbed the surface of their friend's body as it lay on the bank until some signs of animation were restored, procured assistance, brandy, &c., from a neighboring public house, and without delay sent for a surgeon, who arrived before the young man was removed from the verge of the pond. By the direction of the surgeon, Mr. Shaw, of Hampstead, the patient was immediately removed into the public-house above mentioned, and placed in bed. In about a quarter of an hour after he was removed from the water he had recovered consciousness so far as to speak to those around him, and with a great effort he pressed the hand of Mr. Shaw, but complained that he had lost the use of both his legs and arms, and he was soon found to be completely paralyzed. No external injury was perceptible. One of his friends remained with him until his death, which occurred at one o'clock in the morning of the 10th of July, about twenty-eight hours after the receipt of the injury. He was sensible during the first night, and a part of the next day; but he afterwards lost both the power of speech and sensibility.

As the death appeared clearly to proceed from spinal injury, no post-mortem examination of the body was made. Mr. Shaw, in some remarks on the case addressed to us since the inquest, states,—“There can be no doubt that the cervical portion of the spinal marrow was either torn or compressed by a fragment of a fractured vertebræ. When the man precipitated himself into the water, I suspect that the

illness continued only a few weeks. Dr. T. Romeyn Beck lived until he had consumed over one hundred pounds.

Dr. Parker informed me that the arteries in Dr. John B. Beck were ossified (those in the trunk); he compared them to *macaroni*. A similar condition had, to some extent, taken place in Dr. T. R. Beck.

head was bent forward, and the back of the neck came violently in contact with some hard body at the bottom of the pond. I may add that there was complete retention of urine, requiring the use of the catheter, and that during the whole period of consciousness he complained of intense pain in the right arm, which, however, did not appear to have been injured.

"Some years ago I attended a very interesting case with Sir B. Brodie. A man fell out of a hay-loft and fractured two of the cervical vertebræ, driving the arches in upon their bodies, lacerating and compressing the spinal marrow, which was immediately followed by a total loss of all motion and sensation in the whole of the trunk and lower extremities, so that he might be pricked, pinched, or cut, without his having the slightest knowledge of it. He, nevertheless, lived for nearly a *week* after the accident, being perfectly sensible, and he conversed as usual, but did not know that he possessed a body, except from the testimony of his eyes."

CASE 2.—Inquest held at Paddington, August 2d, 1852.—The deceased, H. R——, who had been a bricklayer's laborer, was carrying a hod of bricks along a scaffolding, when a padlock worked out of its ward, the planks gave way, and he was precipitated to the ground—a distance of some thirty feet. He was stated to have fallen on one side of his body. He was at once taken to St. Mary's Hospital, arrived there at a quarter past five o'clock on the afternoon of July 29th, and was immediately placed in bed. He complained of pain at the back of his neck; all his limbs were paralyzed; and the muscular actions of breathing were wholly carried on by the diaphragm. The breathing progressively became more laborious, and he died on the next day, about twenty-eight hours from the time he had met with his accident. He continued to be sensible until within half an hour of his death.

Mr. Trotter, resident-surgeon of the hospital, made a post-mortem examination. He found no external mark of injury, nor any remarkable morbid appearances in the chest or abdomen; but the fifth cervical vertebra was found fractured in several places, and the spinal cord enclosed by it was completely broken up and disorganized.

It may be incidentally remarked as surprising that so few fatal accidents occur to bricklayers' laborers similarly engaged on scaffoldings, which are often very imperfectly secured. Notwithstanding the vast amount of building

which has for some years been going on in the parishes of St. Pancras, Paddington, Kensington, Hammersmith, and other parts of the western division of Middlesex, inquests in cases of death from falls such as that described are comparatively rare.

CASE 3.—W. G——, an elderly man, an omnibus driver, stated to be both careful and sober, about twenty minutes past eight o'clock on the evening of May 7th, 1853, took his omnibus home to the yard in Kentish-town through a very narrow lane, which had never been properly made into a road. In consequence of a sudden jolt whilst guiding his vehicle through deep ruts, he was thrown off his box, and fell upon his back with his head curved forwards, he was removed first to his home, and on the next morning to the University College Hospital, where he was found to be paralyzed from the nipples downwards. His intellectual functions were quite unimpaired. He had a cough, and his breathing was difficult, but he improved in both these particulars. He died, however, on the 4th of June, twenty-seven days after the accident. On a post-mortem examination, a fracture of the fourth cervical vertebra was discovered.

Remarks.—No doubt whatever existed that this man had died in consequence of injury caused by a fall whilst travelling over a bad road; and the medical questions involved became completely subordinate to inquiries of another description. This case particularly illustrates the discursive nature of the duties of the coroner, whose knowledge ought to extend from that of the animal functions and the action of poisons to an acquaintance with some of the most complicated questions in civil law. Who was bound to keep the road in repair? for such party was responsible for the accident and death, and might become liable for the consequences. According to a local Act, the parochial paving-board was not compelled to keep in repair a road which had not been first made and delivered into their keeping by the owners of the adjoining property. The district surveyor gave evidence at the inquest, that the way in question was under no superintendence; that it was not private, because there was a thoroughfare for foot passengers; and, on the other hand, that the carriage road was not public, because it led nowhere except to the stables, and latterly to some new buildings in process of erection. He alleged that the paving commissioners were not bound to keep that road in repair; and he finally stated, that he did not know whether it was a public or a

private way. In the abyss of doubt as to where responsibility lay, the jury returned a verdict that there was no evidence to prove who was culpable on account of the death.

CASE 4.—C. M——, a middle-aged married woman, and the wife of an hostler, living at Uxbridge, whilst suffering great pain from a whitlow, got up in the night to procure some application for her finger; and in attempting to descend a dark staircase, fell down it upon her back. She was presently afterwards found with her feet on the last step but one from the bottom, and lying on her side, with her head upwards on the stairs. Her husband, who, alarmed at the noise of the fall, had gone to her, carried her into a room on the ground-floor, called a neighbor, and went for Mr. M'Namara, surgeon, whose assistant attended. At first she was insensible; but by the time the surgeon's assistant arrived, she recognized all the persons around her, and had been removed to bed. She breathed with difficulty and noise; her utterance was thick; she complained of slight pains in her head, and at the back of her neck. The whole of the limbs were destitute of the power of motion; but sensation was not entirely destroyed, as she felt pain on an incision being made into the whitlow by Mr. Catlin, the assistant of Mr. M'Namara, at the time of his visit. One of the spinous processes in the neck could not be felt externally, and a dislocation or fracture of the corresponding vertebra was accordingly suspected. She lived only till about six o'clock in the morning of the 4th of July, 1854, or five hours and a half after she had fallen down stairs. At the post-mortem examination, it was ascertained that the spinous process of the fourth cervical vertebra had been broken off, and the laminæ of that bone were also fractured; the broken pieces of bone pressed upon and indented so much of the spinal marrow as almost to divide it in two.

CASE 5.—S. W——, a man rather beyond middle age, a painter, on the evening of August 1st, 1854, was seen walking, or rather staggering, in a state of intoxication, along the road from Uxbridge to Hullingdon, when, as he himself stated, in endeavoring to pick up something, he stumbled and fell forward, pitching with his head against the ground, as was proved by a scar on his right cheek. Some men, who shortly afterwards came up, turned him over on his back, and then left him on the footway, in the charge of a tradesman who lived close by and had come to the spot. The latter gave him some water to drink, washed his face, and tried to put him on his legs; but on finding

that he had no power to walk, he set the man against a wall, untied his neckcloth, and soon had him removed home. The patient was seen that evening by a medical student, who supposed him to be merely suffering from the effects of drink; but on the next morning he was visited by Mr. Rayner, surgeon, of Uxbridge. From the want of motion in the limbs, and of sensation all over the lower part of the body, distension of the bladder, and inability to pass urine, as well as pain complained of in the neck, Mr. Rayner was led to suppose that the man had fractured one or more of the cervical vertebræ. On examination, Mr. Rayner detected, as he believed, that the fifth cervical vertebra had been broken, as, on pressing the spinous process of that bone with the finger, increased pain was occasioned. Some sensation remained about the shoulders, but none in the arms. Considering it to be a hopeless case, in which impression Mr. Rayner was confirmed by the opinions of Mr. Stilwell and the late Mr. Cane, little was done in the way of treatment beyond withdrawing the urine night and morning. The bowels relieved themselves involuntarily and unconsciously. The patient was perfectly sensible until within a short time previous to his death, which occurred on Aug. 7th, six days after the receipt of the injury. As the nature of the accident appeared clear, and no other person was involved in blame on account of it, a post-mortem examination was not required for the purposes of the inquest, and accordingly none was made.

This instance presents an analogy with Case 1; in both cases it will be noticed how very short a fall was sufficient to produce fatal injury in the spinal column.

CASE 6.—R. Mullins, an excavator, thirty-one years of age. In this case, a man being in custody on a charge of having killed the deceased, the notes relative to the occurrence were taken more fully than in some of the preceding instances. The inquest was held at Hampton, January 1st, 1855. The deceased man and some of his fellow laborers were in the tap-room of a public-house between five and six o'clock on the evening of December 18th, 1854. Some dispute arose, and Mullins, in an intoxicated state, advanced towards a man named Miller, who was standing with his back to the fireplace, and he struck Miller twice on the face. Miller, who was said to be even more intoxicated than the other man, with much forbearance took no notice of the first blow, but after the second he ran towards Mullins, and they had what was termed a "rally" together,

at the end of which both men fell on the floor. No blow was alleged to have been struck on either side during this rally or wrestle. The witnesses differed materially in their statements as to the position in which the men lay on the ground after their fall; some asserting that Miller fell on his back, and Mullins upon him; others,—and this was more probable,—that Mullins fell on his back; and others, again, stated that the men fell side by side. Mullins was raised up by some of the bystanders and set upon a bench, but he said that he could not sit, and was then laid by some of them upon the ground. He complained of being hurt, but he could not describe where, or in what manner; and as soon as a cart could be procured he was removed to his home, about a mile distant, unable to move any of his limbs, although he could turn his head. He was supposed to be suffering simply from intoxication, he was merely placed in bed, and no surgeon was sent for until the next day. Mr. Woodd, assistant to Mr. Holberton, surgeon, of Hampton, being then accidentally near his residence, visited him, and found him propped up in bed, destitute of motion and sensation throughout the trunk and extremities, but still quite sensible. No treatment adopted could be effectual, and the man died shortly after five o'clock on the ensuing day, December 20th, about forty-eight hours after sustaining his injuries. On the post-mortem examination, a slight bruise was visible at the back of the neck, but the skin was unbroken; no mark of contusion existed elsewhere. The organs in the chest, and some in the abdomen, were congested. In the head, a considerable effusion of coagulated blood was found outside of the dura mater at the base of the brain, and this was continuous throughout the spinal canal, down to the lumbar vertebræ. The extravasation of blood in the spinal canal was greatest in the neck, and particularly within the fifth cervical vertebra, to which occurrence the loss of power and the death were obviously attributable. In this case it was not stated that any cervical vertebra was found fractured.

It may be mentioned that, as the testimony of all the witnesses exculpated Miller from any intention to do injury to the deceased man, and the evidence went unanimously to prove that no blow had been struck during the scuffle, the jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure, and Miller was speedily released from custody.

CASE 7.—T. F——, a workman in a carpet manufactory, aged forty-three years. Inquest

at Middlesex Hospital. The deceased was brought into the hospital about mid-day on the 16th of April, 1855. He was then sensible, and complained of cold; he could not move any of his limbs, but no external injury was visible. He became insensible at about half-past nine o'clock on the night of that day, and at a quarter past eleven he died. It was deposed in evidence that about two o'clock on the afternoon of the preceding day his master met him intoxicated in the street, and desired that he would accompany him to the warehouse. The deceased went within sight of his master up a ladder-staircase to the first floor, and from a height of about twelve feet he fell backwards over his master, who was on the lower steps of the ladder, and down to the ground, as it was supposed from giddiness or unconsciousness produced by intoxication. On being taken up, he was found to have lost the use of all his limbs, and was at once removed to his home, where he remained until taken to the hospital the following day. His death occurred about thirty-one hours after the accident.

Mr. Norton, house-surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, made a post-mortem examination. The lungs and heart were found healthy, and the brain was in a natural condition, except that some bloody serum existed in its ventricles. Some extravasated blood was seen beneath the scalp over the left parietal bone. The seventh cervical vertebra was fractured across its articulating processes, and the spinal cord opposite this injury was softened for about an inch of its extent, and presented a clot of blood in its substance. To these injuries in the neck the cause of death was assigned.

Of the seven patients whose cases are above detailed, one lived only five hours and a half after the accident; three died in a little more than twenty-four hours; one lived for two days; another for six days, and another for twenty-seven days afterwards. In a case detailed by Dr. Eade, (*THE LANCET* for 1855, vol. ii. p. 520,) the patient lived for nearly four months. But by far the most remarkable case of this description with which we are acquainted is narrated in a memoir of one John Carter, of Coggeshall, in Essex,* who lived for *fourteen years* after the injuries which deprived his limbs of motion and sensation. Carter, at the age of twenty-one years, in 1836, slipped from a tree at the height of about forty feet from the ground, and fell to the earth upon his back. He was taken up senseless, and moved none of

* Memoir of John Carter. By William James Dampier, Vicar of Coggeshall. London, Parker, 1850. 12mo, pp. 44.

his limbs afterwards. Muscular power in the neck and head was, however, retained, and, it is added, a slight power of motion in the chest and left shoulder. The brain appeared to have suffered no injury from the fall. His mental faculties remained unimpaired during the rest of his life, and he partially supported himself by drawing, by means of a pencil placed between his teeth, upon paper adjusted for the purpose upon appropriate machinery. Some of his drawings, made in this way, copies of which are given in his Memoir, have singular excellence, and one is said to be in the possession of Her Majesty. His death was occasioned by pulmonary disease, accelerated by his being overturned with a small chaise in which he was being drawn. At a post-mortem examination, the fifth, sixth, and seventh cervical vertebræ were found thrust out into an arch, and the seventh was dislocated so as to press upon the spinal cord. We learn that a considerable quantity of extravasated blood was found in the immediate region of this dislocation, which effusion was probably a result of his last fall; but as the Memoir is written by a non-professional gentleman, we have no more precise account of the anatomical peculiarities of the injuries sustained than that just given.

A LOSS TO SCIENCE.—At Cape Palmas, Africa, in January last, Philip Schoenlein, a very enterprising and accomplished gentleman, the son Dr. Schoenlein, the respected physician to his majesty the King of Prussia. This young man was in his 22d year, of a fine athletic constitution, mentally highly gifted, who had for some years taken up the plan of making a voyage to Zanzibar on the Eastern coast of Africa, with the view of exploring for purposes of science the interior, for which he had prepared himself by careful and profound study of the various branches of Natural History. He went in October to Cape Palmas, with the view of acclimation, and for some months escaped disease, and kept a valuable journal of his scientific observations. But another sacrifice has been made to an enthusiasm for science and for African discovery. The highest expectations were entertained of him; since his mental culture, his activity and quiet mind, showed him possessed of all the endowments for such an undertaking. His death is greatly lamented in Berlin.

It is said that the mummy of Nebuchadnezzar has been found by Mr. Layard at Babylon. The green grass in the stomach settled the question.

TREATMENT OF ULCERATED LEGS.

American practitioners have often been unsuccessful in the management of those long standing ulcers on the shin and on either side of the ankle, which abound among aged seamen, and mechanics whose business subjects them to injuries on the leg, from moving heavy timber, stone, &c.

The following paper is from a source to command confidence. The author is Thomas Wertlake, a surgeon of London.

“Ulcers of the leg are cases in which there is no question about the patient's life or death, and I think it very probable that many among you may pass by the bedside of a patient without thinking it worthy of attention. But I am not disposed to regard it in this manner. Although the patient may not die of this malady, yet, without care, it may render him miserable for life. The disease may be very much relieved by art, and it is one of very common occurrence. You examine carefully a case of aneurism, a case of stone in the bladder, and so on; but these are things of comparatively rare occurrence, and which will not fall under your treatment in the beginning of your professional lives; but ulcers of the leg are cases of a very distressing nature, and such as meet you at every turn of your practice; and your reputation in early life may depend more upon your understanding a case of this kind than upon your knowledge of one of more rare occurrence.”

Such ulcers, be it remembered, (especially among the poor,) not only disqualify the miserable patient for his usual duties, but not unfrequently render him an object of distress, and sometimes of disgust, to those around him.

It would be a useless occupation of time, were I to classify the different kinds and appearances of ulcers, particularly as they are described in all our works on Surgery, my object being to incite the junior members of the profession to the practical, rather than the theoretical, treatment of ulcers. I shall as much as possible abstain from theoretical speculation, and confine myself to points of practical interest; and while I would not altogether disregard systematic arrangement, yet having found ulcers as varied in shape, color, &c., as the sun's rays falling on different objects, I regard such description and arrangement as fallacious in reference to treatment.

Ulcers on the upper extremity, and other parts of the body, usually heal readily, while the cicatrization of those of the lower extremity is often attended with difficulty. This may

be attributed to the weight of the superincumbent volume of blood weakening the vessels, and thus impeding the circulation. The getting rid of this trying difficulty I regard as the sheet-anchor in my mode of treatment—viz., *the complete and uniform support to the affected limb*. This is best maintained by a well-adjusted flannel bandage, from seven to eight yards long, and three inches wide. This plan enables the patient to pursue his ordinary avocation, at the same time that the wound is healed more rapidly and lastingly than by the most complete rest. In a work fraught with useful practical information, by Mr. Critchett, the preference in the treatment of ulcers is given to well-adjusted strips of plaster, Mr. Critchett considering that more equal pressure is thereby afforded than by any other process. I cannot concur in this opinion, being convinced that plastering is not so good as the support of the bandage. This practical surgeon thinks a bandage does not afford the same amount of equable pressure as plaster; but it is easy to show that this is not a valid objection, where the bandager is practically skilful. The bandage has, too, the advantage of perfect freedom from the disagreeable smell of plaster, which at night, and to a sensitive and irritable stomach, is not only objectionable, but almost unbearable. Again, the skin, particularly in varicose ulcers, is attenuated and irritable, and the application of plaster, however free from irritative ingredients, often produces a crop of eczematous or impetiginous ulcers, thus giving additional annoyance to the patient, and extra trouble to the surgeon. It may, too, be mentioned, that the new skin, being delicate and thin, is often torn away by the removal of the plaster.

It is admitted by Mr. Critchett, that when the plaster is clumsily applied, or with too much tightness, serious consequences ensue. The same objections can scarcely apply to bandaging, which can easily be loosened or removed by the patient. The practice and perseverance which Mr. Critchett states to be necessary to ensure sufficient dexterity in the application of the plaster, I grant, is equally true of the bandage; and I quite agree with Mr. Chapman, in his remarks, “that a single day’s neglect at a critical juncture, or one day’s unskilful application of the bandage, may undo all that has been gained by a month’s care and attention.”

It is by this valuable agent, compression, that Nature is most assisted in the reparation, and in insuring a speedy and permanent cure.

The advantage of this support enables the patient also to use the important auxiliary of exercise, which exerts so beneficial an influence on the proper circulation of the blood; thus affording great relief to pain, as well as improving the health and spirits, often much reduced, by having been subjected to the irksome panacea of a smothering in bed, and soaking the limb in poultices.

I am apprehensive that any description will fail to convey even a faint idea of the morbid appearance in the different classes and stages of ulcers. Experience alone can adequately convey it to the mind; nor will the success of treatment depend on a knowledge of the various characteristics, as described by authors; but upon the power of recognizing each phase, and adapting the plan of treatment accordingly. “As right men in right places,” so is it all-important to select the right time for the use of right remedies, which, however valuable in themselves, may, for want of proper discrimination, be thrown aside, and treated with unmerited neglect.

Is there any period at which a bandage cannot be applied? I believe not. Its superiority over fomentations and poultices is most marked. I have scarcely ever seen any *beneficial* effect from either poultices or fomentations; but I have often witnessed, as the result of their use, large flaccid granulations, and the temporary loss of all tonicity about the ulcer. I therefore, jealously avoid even sponging the ulcer with warm water, but cleanse it with a piece of dry lint prior to dressing, which should be effected as quickly as possible, not allowing the ulcer to be exposed to the injurious effect of the air.

As regards the various remedies recommended by authors, I believe that experience alone can guide the surgeon in an advantageous selection; and while I would not advocate the merits of any one system of treatment to the exclusion of the others, yet, as a general principle, I affirm that water-dressing, either cold, warm, or medicated, has never proved beneficial under my hands, while the objections to it are many. If the lint or linen be allowed to become dry, the highly sensitive and tender granulations are irritated by the rough surface, and by its removal the new skin becomes often stripped. If the wound be constantly saturated, it involves rest, neglect of business, and loss of the all-important remedy—support.

While the stimulating plan unquestionably possesses great powers, the experienced eye is necessary to regulate its employment. I have

seen a healthy granulating surface, secreting laudable pus, completely destroyed by the injudicious application of even a *mild* caustic.

In indolent ulcers, particularly, it becomes necessary to vary the stimulants, or the ulcers become sluggish, and soon relapse into their former state. I have found the compound tincture of iodine the most safe and efficient stimulant; and in irritable ulcers, the application of the following lotion, — hydriodate of potassa, one scruple; hydrocyanic acid (Sheele), half a drachm; camphor mixture, one ounce, — applied for four or five minutes, with lint well saturated, acts as a charm. To be succeeded by the following ointment: spermaceti ointment, half an ounce; iodine, five grains; extract of belladonna, one drachm. I have seen little benefit result from the use of medicine, nor do I think it necessary for accelerating the healing process; the only requisites being a well applied bandage, exercise, good air, generous living, and suitable appliances. I do not refer to ulcers of a specific character.

The frequency of dressing the wound must depend on the character of the discharge. Pus soon becomes decomposed, produces irritation, and retards recovery.

The reluctance and aversion of our leading surgeons to attend to this unpleasing branch of surgery has, I feel assured, induced many to recommend patients afflicted with ulcers of many years' standing, not to jeopardize their health, which may be consequent on the wound being healed. Such an opinion, I believe to be a complete *ignis fatuus*. I have myself had patients whose ulcers were healed after twenty or twenty-five years' standing, and have never found their health damaged, but, on the contrary, improved, with the cheering additional advantage of restoration to society and the enjoyments and comforts of life.

I lay no claim to specific treatment, but from long experience and extensive practice I can confidently assert that, whenever a patient gives himself any thing like fair and proper assistance, ulcers of every kind, however chronic, save those of a malignant character, are not only perfectly tractable, but certainly admit of a speedy, safe, easy and lasting cure.

The treatment of ulcers was forced upon my attention soon after commencing practice, and I found myself like a captain in a crazy bark, in an unknown sea, without chart, compass, or rudder, when my first patient, a wandering horse-dealer, applied for assistance. He was a man of dissolute habits, and had for

many years been subject to extensive ulceration of the legs. I felt that some evil genius had directed him to my surgery, as his great emaciation and horror-stricken countenance quite appalled me, particularly when I inspected his legs, which in size were equal to his body, with numerous wounds varying from the disc of a fourpenny to that of a five-shilling piece; in fact, the legs might have been termed a mass of putrid flesh, there being but little remaining skin; and the effluvium emitted was disgusting in the extreme. Finding that the man had been under many surgeons of eminence, and in hospitals, I at first refused to take charge of so frightful a case, but did so ultimately, hoping that, if successful, it might establish me in the neighborhood. But at the very threshold I was met, and at once environed with difficulties. I attempted, but in vain, to diagnose the wounds; my little hospital knowledge, and a reference to all works on the subject, soon proved, like the treatment therein recommended, unavailing and confusing. I labored diligently, day by day, to notice any apparent change in each wound, making a note of the same. After two or three weeks I began to vary my treatment, touching a few ulcers with strong caustics, others with a milder form, poultices, water-dressing, ointments, plaster, &c.; for I had an extensive field to operate upon. I soon observed a marked difference in the appearance of the ulcers, even in those that were treated alike. I also found that a class of ulcers treated one day would improve in the appearance of the granulations and the discharge, but if the same treatment were persisted in for two or three days the ulcers became unhealthy and receded. By vigilantly marking and noting these changes, I had, in about three months, the ulcers completely under my command, and could with certainty predicate the appearance and advance of the healing process in each ulcer, so that within five months every ulcer had healed; and although the man returned to his intemperate and depraved habits, he had not the slightest return of the disease during the period of his after-life, which was seventeen years.

To avoid tediously extending cases over a lengthened period, I will briefly give a few cases out of many which I have had under my care since practising at Surbiton, and it is not a little remarkable that my *first* patient in this place also should have been one suffering under ulcerated legs.

In February, 1853, my advice was sought

by a chemist in the town, for a remedy to alleviate the sufferings of F. B——, aged fifty-three, a laborer, who stated, that about seventeen years previously he received a blow on the leg, which soon produced a wound, which did not heal for upwards of a year. About two years afterwards, the wound again broke out, with two or three others, and in a few months the other leg became similarly affected. He had been under various kinds of medical treatment, without relief. At the time of my seeing him, he was, and long had been, confined to his house, and supported by the parish. There were nine wounds on the right, and seven on the left leg, one of which was as large as an ordinary wine-glass. This and some of the other ulcers were of a character I have before met with, giving an appearance as though emmets had been long and actively employed in burrowing under the skin, which was left thin and jagged, from an eighth to a quarter of an inch, and dropping flaccidly over the wound. A thin, sanious discharge was copiously poured out. From the lengthened and extreme suffering this poor fellow had undergone, I was prepared to meet with a ready and strict obedience to my orders, and at once promised his recovery, and restoration to labor by the 1st of June. I commenced by freely pencilling the ragged skin with a solution of mercury and nitric acid, having found that the skin, when allowed to remain, retards cicatrization, from its want of vitality. I visited the man and dressed the ulcers daily for a fortnight, at the expiration of which time he walked to my surgery, a distance of three miles, and by the middle of May resumed his labors (all the ulcers having healed), which he has continued to the present time, without the slightest return or inconvenience.

Mr. P. B——, aged fifty-eight, applied to me in the spring of 1854, having three ulcers on the left and one on the right leg, the largest the size of the disc of a wineglass, and of a great depth; the edges cartilaginous; legs hard and much enlarged, and of a deep-red color; the wounds had resisted various kinds of treatment for upwards of ten years. On account of this man being exposed to the weather and his irregular habits, it was six months before all the ulcers had completely healed.

Mr. G. K——, aged forty-four, farmer, applied to me in the summer of 1854, having eight ulcers of the leg, varying in size from the disc of a wine-glass to that of a half-crown piece deep, and of a phagedænic character;

the limb very much thickened. He was tall, and had been very powerful and robust, but at this time was much emaciated from the great drain and extreme suffering. Had consulted several medical men without benefit. After the first month the man walked to my house, a distance of six miles, and before the close of the year all the ulcers had healed.

S. F——, aged sixty-seven, housekeeper, applied in June, 1854, having twenty-two wounds on the right leg, varying in size from a crown to a fourpenny piece, resulting from an accident fifteen years before; many of the wounds having resisted various medical treatment, as well as quackery in every form, for that period of time. The limb was much enlarged; ulcers deep, with wiry edges, and pouring out a thin, green, ichorous discharge. The woman was much reduced, from extreme suffering day and night. Before the expiration of three months every ulcer had healed, and she was able to resume her situation, which is laborious, and she has not since found any inconvenience or return of her malady.

Mr. T. H——, aged forty-five, builder and carpenter, applied to me in July, 1854, having four large wounds on the right leg, one measuring eleven inches and a half by five inches wide, and a quarter of an inch in depth. The limb was much enlarged, and hard; skin of deep dark-red color; edges of the wound ragged, and pouring out from each wound freely a thin sanies; veins varicose. The man's frame was gigantic, but very much emaciated. He stated that the wounds resulted from an accident; he had fallen through a ceiling in the year 1834, and had been suffering now twenty years. He had been under the care of many medical men, and at hospitals; was frequently confined to his bed for months together; at the time of consulting me he had been confined to his house nine weeks. At the expiration of three weeks he resumed his labor, and at the close of September every wound had healed, and remained sound to the present time, although severely tested by having roughed it in superintending the railway at Balaklava.

Mr. G. T——, aged sixty, applied to me on the 16th of November, 1855, with a large, dusky, indolent ulcer, extending over the upper portion of the shin and a great portion of the calf of the leg. He stated that forty years ago he received a compound fracture of the leg, several portions of bone coming away, and the wound remained open for several years; that about ten or twelve years ago it

broke out again, and has from that time been gradually spreading, which unfitted him for labor, and prevented his walking any distance. He had consulted various medical men, and been in one of the metropolitan hospitals for ten weeks confined to his bed. He left the hospital without benefit the same year he applied to me. After the first dressing, he walked every other day to my surgery, a distance of eight miles, and within three weeks walked with ease, in one day, a distance exceeding twenty miles, and joined the coursing meetings at Bushy and Hampton-park on foot every week. The ulcers were healed by Feb. 17th, 1856, he having been less than three months under my care.

Margaret-street, Cavendish-square, 1856.

REGISTRATIVE LAW IN SCOTLAND.

Amongst the worst evils to which medical practitioners are exposed in Scotland, and which would doubtless be remedied by a properly-constituted Medical Council for that division of the kingdom, are — First, the penal clause in the new Registration Act, subjecting any physician or surgeon, in attendance upon a patient who dies, to the fine of "*forty shillings*," if he fails to forward, within fourteen days after that event, the required notice of death to the district registrar notwithstanding he receives no remuneration as a set-off to such unjust treatment. Secondly, when any member of the profession writes a certificate as to the mental condition of a lunatic, whom it is proposed to place in an asylum, he must declare his medical opinion "on soul and conscience;" in fact, an oath is virtually taken when signing this formula; whilst the same is often required, although only certifying much less important professional matters.

MATE.—Paraguay tea, under the common name of *mate*, is considered an indispensable against climatic influences. In the markets of Brazil sharks five feet long are sold for food, and the *lagartos*, a large lizard, are a table delicacy, prized far above fowls. In British Guiana, the fish known as the *Daras Costata*, actually travels over extensive ranges of land, working its fins something like feet, at the same time heaving ahead with the tail. The common is *hassar*. More curious still, they lay eggs in a nest. Their flesh is yellow, firm, and considered fine eating by the negroes.

COMMUNICATIONS.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER III. BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Travelling for Health—Vanity from Travel—Injury from Travelling—Agriculture Better—Fashionable Watering Places—Periodical Dissipation—Pleasures of Home—Taking Children to Hotels and Places of Fashionable Resort—Absence of Clergymen—Objections to sending Consumptive Patients Abroad—The North should be preferred to the South—Old Treatment for Consumption—New Better—Good Advice and some Medicine often Useful—Mutual Confidence and Respect necessary to Success in any Profession.

It is well for a man, who has the means to take his family with him, to go abroad. It enlarges his views and elevates his mind. It shows him more of the wonders of Divine power, and of the works of men. Such an one, visiting different portions of the world, returns home a wiser and a better man, and better satisfied with his own sphere of usefulness.

But no one ought to travel abroad till he is a man; till his habits of life are established, and he prepared to profit by seeing the world. Most of the young professional men, like half fledged butterflies, are rendered vain, not to say insolent, by visiting foreign climes too early. They can scarcely speak without lugging in something that *they saw*; or, somebody with whom they dined, "across the water." We have often been disgusted with such professional, mush-room pride of accidence, Had it devolved on *them* to furnish the means, they would have resembled *Pollok's* man in more respects than one,—

—"Who never had a dozen thoughts in all his life,
And never changed their course—lived, where
His father lived; and died, where he died."

We have, sometimes, seen half a dozen such, as to thought and judgment, moored high and dry, by a single remark of some wise old physician or clergyman, who possessed more brains than an army of such half-fledged migratory birds.

There is no one cause for which professional men oftener travel abroad than to regain lost health. Now, we affirm, without hesitation, that in nine cases out of ten, health is more often injured, than benefited by such journeys. Our reasons for this opinion will appear in the sequel.

Dr. Armstrong, one of the most shrewd, intelligent, and popular physicians of England, has left the following testimony, as the result of his contemplation and experience, of sending invalids from home with the hope of regaining health in foreign climes.

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

"With regard to climate, I thought favorably of a change sometime ago; but so many appalling facts have come to my knowledge, that I have been induced to change my mind. If consumption be threatened, the patient has the best chance at home. To remove the invalid from his friends is to wrench him from all the affections which have held him from the time of his birth; and no man can bear this, without receiving a shock, which may be exceedingly injurious. Besides which, the fatigue of travelling, the risk of cold, the worry and bustle of inns, the diet, which becomes in some measure dependent upon chance, on the road, the danger of damp beds, and the necessity of changing the abode at different seasons of the year, must all be taken into the account. They more than counterbalance the good which might arise from a less variable climate; and many persons who have left this country in a state of threatened consumption, have returned with confirmed phthisis. If an individual of a delicate constitution, with a slight cough and slow pulse, should pass to a warmer climate, he can scarcely ever return with safety to this. Medical men have been too much accustomed quietly to take up with errors of men who lived in times of darkness and ignorance; and, the age in which we live is remarkable for the fortitude with which some individuals have thrown off this cumbrous load, and have dared to think and act for themselves. This independence of mind has led to very beneficial results in the improvement of professional knowledge."

Many around us can bear testimony to the truthfulness of the above remarks. They have sent their invalid friends abroad, with the hope that a change of climate would prove beneficial to their health. But this hope has been more frequently disappointed than realized, and they have either died in foreign lands, or returned just in season to expire in the arms of their friends. Often they would have lived longer, and much more comfortably, had they remained at home.

It is very customary now for a parish to allow their minister to be absent a number of months, for the benefit of his health; and to furnish him with the means for travelling abroad. We commend such for their kindness and charity. It manifests a good feeling towards their minister, and shows that, after having received of him "spiritual blessings," they are willing he should partake of their "carnal things."

We would suggest a different course both for

the parish and for the enfeebled minister. One which we believe, would better improve his health and more "abound to the riches of their liberality." It is to furnish him with land for tillage, and with the implements of husbandry. It need not be a fifteen thousand, or even a six thousand dollars farm, such as the papers inform us have been supplied to two of the pastors in Brooklyn in New York. A very small farm, or even a garden, would be sufficient. There let the minister, worn down by the cares, labor, and anxiety attendant upon professional duty, breathe the pure air of heaven and exercise his bodily powers. Let him lay hold of the hoe, the axe, the plough, the scythe and the rake, and take gentle, daily exercise. Let him not fear the loss of a delicate hand, or a lily-like face, or a slender arm. In "the labor of his hands" let him rejoice, and in "the sweat of his face, let him eat bread." Thus will he soon find that even the curse denounced on our first parents, embodies one of our richest earthly blessings. Professional men, and others also, are too much afraid of labor. How few of them can say, "these hands have ministered to my necessities."

Agriculture and horticulture are among the best means to restore declining health and rejuvenate the exhausted and jaded mind. The benefit of such employment has been sung by poets and praised by philosophers from early ages.

Any sedentary invalid, who will resort to this Heaven-ordained means of health of body, and peace of mind, will soon understand why the old clergymen of this country had a long ministry, and a green old age. We have the reason in the following lines,—

"By toil, our long-lived fathers earned their food;
Toil strung their nerves, and purified their blood."

This more redounds to the health and happiness of an invalid, than travel; and he can have it without the exposure, fretting, expense, loss of society, bad food, uncomfortable beds, stunted sleeping rooms, and a thousand other perplexities and annoyances which necessarily beset the path of the traveller. But, it is the *fashion* to travel. We know it is, and "there's the rub." Fashion is a wonderful creature. She has access to all places, and operates throughout all time. She renders the wasp-formed female beautiful; and the greasy-mustached beau fascinating. She gives a club-foot to the Chinese damsel, and a long tail to her brother; a flat nose and a bandy leg to the African, and imposes many uncooth and inconvenient forms of dress upon the community.

In our own country there is much travel, ostensibly for health, where, we unhesitatingly pronounce that, the injury far surpasses the gain. Inexorable *Fashion* says, we must go from our home in Dog-days; and in obedience to her mandate, there is a rush from all our cities and towns, from the metropolis down to the smallest village, to the places where this "goddess" specially presides. This is the season, when our climate renders the quiet and comfort of home the most healthful and necessary. The best protection, at such a season, can be found at home. But, *de gustibus non disputandum est*, we must allow those who please, (and who do not) to exchange the large, airy, brick-walled rooms of the town, and the cool mattress, and fine linen, for the narrow, wooden, sun-burnt chamber, the heating cotton, greasy feathers, and dirty sheets of a country inn, or a pent-up village boarding house. We once knew a gentleman, who, after a cab-ride of three hours, around one of these fashionable resorts, to find accommodations, at last, compelled to take up with such quarters for himself and family, as he would have scorned for his servant, or his dog, at home. But who could live through a hot summer without visiting Nahant, Newport, Saratoga, or Niagara? It is not against visiting these places that we would speak; and towards those who *need* an occasional plum to sweeten the acidity of their domestic circle; or who want,

"That first sane symptom of a mind in health;
Rest at heart, and pleasure felt at home,"

we would not be so ungracious as to deny them the boon of absence.

But we protest against taking the hottest season to make these *periodical* visits, with the expectation of thereby promoting *health*. At this season, the organs of digestion are the least able to discharge their function. They sympathize with all the other parts of the body; and, like them, require rest: and, is this the time to leave the frugal, wholesome fare at home, and rush to the gathering places where every board groans with its life-killing feasts; and, where the luxuries provided, and the exciting presence and example of hundreds of mouths, eager to reward the purse, at the expense of the stomach, render it next to impossible to obey the laws of health? Where besides, this poor pack-horse, this groaning organ, is teased with mineral waters, wines, bitters, pills, tobacco juice, and tobacco fumes, taken throatwise and lungwise, to ease itself of its cumbersome burdens.

Would it not be wise for ministers, before they run such a risk, to ask themselves, "who is sufficient for these things?" and to pray, "lead us not into temptation?"

Nothing is more delusive than the impression usually present with persons visiting such places that, they are growing better because, as they suppose, they are gaining flesh. Under the spasmodic action of this paraphernalia of stimulants, there is often an appearance of more flesh.

But it is diseased, not sound, healthy flesh—*mere bloat*,—like self-righteousness, the more a man has of it the poorer he is. He vainly thinks he is on the high road to health; whereas, he is going to the grave almost as fast as a doctor could send him. For every pound of such flesh, nature will be revenged, and the day of retribution is at hand.

Hence it is, that most persons, soon after a return from such fashionable gathering places, have an attack of dyspepsia, biliousness, sick-headache, pulmonary affection, or cutaneous eruption. Like the morning dew, their ill-gotten flesh soon vanishes, and, as was the case with "Pharoah's lean kine, it would not be known that they had eaten" such fat things, but for their greater emaciation, than when they left home. These abuses, occurring *periodically*, undermine the best constitution.

Taking *children* to such places is the consummation of folly. More than half the so-called diseases of the season, and the deaths of children, which occur in August and September, arise from this fashionable dissipation. No place is so good for children, if you wish them to live, as a quiet home. Country air is good for them if they have a permanent abode. But to take them to places of fashionable resort, and stuff them with tempting viands, gravies, puddings, and pastries, is to cheat them out of two of the best things in the world,—a *good conscience* and a *good stomach*. Even the crowded city, bad as it is, is better for them than such fashionable journeys.

We ought, perhaps, not to inveigh too strongly against such travel, as, like the use of quack medicine, it brings us annually many patients.

It has always been a perplexing question with us, how "the Good Shepherd, who cares for the sheep," can leave them one sixth part of the year to the mercy of the wolves. In our large cities a man must sometimes travel half a day, before he can find a church open for worship, in the afternoon, in "Dog-days." It may be all right, but it looks a little like

fasting too long, "between hay and grass."

But we are met by the objection, would you have the pastor, already worn down, stay and die on the field? We say, yes, better die with his harness on, than at such a fashionable resort, as we have described. But we have already "shown a more excellent way," in resorting to that first and most honorable occupation of man, "tilling the ground."

If a person of slender habit, *before* the lungs are diseased, travel to a *warm* climate, where the air is mild, and of a uniform temperature, it will be likely to ward off the disease. If our ever variable climate be changed for the beautiful and mild atmosphere of Italy or the south of France, or the southern portions of our own country, such as Florida or Alabama, *before* the lungs have become essentially diseased, the change may be salutary. But if the change is made *after* the disease has commenced, the effect will be to hurry it on to a fatal termination; and, to send the invalid from home, when he most needs a home, is but to give him his final home. It is but to leave the circle of his friends, to die among strangers.

It is the varying temperature of our climate which lays the foundation for so many lung diseases, and the case is similar in England. If a change is made to a more equable climate, either warmer, or colder, *before the consumptive disease begins to be developed*, the effect will be good. But, it is more favorable to go to a *colder* than to a *warmer* clime, whether the object be protection against consumption, or recovery from it.

Some ten years ago, I wrote the following sentence and published it:—"A cold climate acts as a protection against consumption, and many facts have induced me to believe that it is better to go *north*, than *south*, for consumptive patients." Such is still my opinion. Nor, am I now alone in it, though, so far as I know, I was then; and some physicians, holding prominent positions scouted the idea. At this, I was not surprised, as the whole treatment of the Faculty, for this disease, during the last fifty years, until very recently, was the worst that could possibly have been devised. Starting as they did, upon the erroneous opinion, that consumption arose from inflammation of the lungs, the treatment was as follows:—The patient was confined to his room, (the temperature of which was kept high,) and sweltered in flannel. No fresh air was admitted. If a door were left ajar, or a window raised, the nurse or the mother, the sis-

ter or the doctor, hastily closed it. All these precautions tended to debilitate the patient, and paralyze the efforts of nature to overcome the threatened disease; and, in addition to depriving him of air, and sweltering him with artificial warmth, the direct medical treatment of the physician, was, if possible, still more pernicious. It consisted of bleeding, blistering, puking, purging, seatonizing, and dosing with preparations of calomel, antimony, squills, ipecac, opium, and all those debilitating paraphernalia, the very mention of which now sickens every well-read physician, and causes all who are old practitioners, almost to deny that they were ever addicted to such practice. Belonging, as the writer did, to a consumptive family, whose father and mother, and only brother fell by this disease, and who, himself in early life, came as near dying of it as any man ever did, who escaped, I speak what I know. My only brother was bled, for disease of the lungs, three or four times, for three successive years, and died on the fourth year, after he was attacked, of consumption, and before he was thirty years old. The writer submitted to all the routine of the above-named treatment, except the lancet. He would never be bled. A younger sister was, for three years, subject to raising blood, and other symptoms of consumption. A physician was called, who proposed bleeding. He was a member of the regular Faculty, and a genuine follower of Dr. Rush, a very estimable man, but one, who within a few years, has been justly characterized by an eminent English physician, "as peculiarly bloodthirsty." She was not bled. She recovered, and is still living, and has lived thirty years since her early sickness, and is the mother of half-a-dozen healthy, and some of them grown-up children.

It is admitted that there has been a great change in medical practice within the last thirty years, so much so, indeed, that the young generation now coming upon the stage of action, will scarcely believe that their fathers were ever accustomed to such hard practice; yet, the writer can show from documentary evidence now in his office, that, the annual fee, for bleeding alone, thirty years ago, in the office of an eminent English Surgeon, (performed of course by his pupils,) amounted to a small fortune. Fortunate, indeed, is it for humanity, that the "times have changed, and we have changed with them."

But to return to the question, Is it better to go North than South, for consumptives? I have said, the North should be preferred. Now for

the proof,—consumption is a rare disease in Siberia, Nova Zembla, Greenland, even in Canada, and in all northern latitudes, where the winters are long and the weather is steadily cold and serene.

Dr. A. S. Weatherspoon, in a paper read to the New York Medical Society, says, “the climate of Fort Kent, Maine, like that of the colder regions of Northern Europe, does not seem favorable for the production of pulmonary consumption. During my sojourn at the fort, I have neither seen nor heard of a case of this disease among the French or American settlers. Assistant Surgeon Isaacs, who, during the two years he was resident at the fort, had a much better opportunity than myself of becoming acquainted with the diseases of the country, informs me not only that he never saw a case of consumption in the country, but that some of the inmates of the garrison, who were affected with suspicious symptoms, recovered from them entirely. The present revenue officer at this post, a man of decidedly scrofulous temperament, had suffered a slight attack of hæmoptysis, (spitting blood,) and other symptoms of incipient pulmonary disease, when he was ordered to this post. Though liable to catch cold when exposed, his cough no longer troubles him. He has gained flesh and strength, and considers himself free from the disease.—I have no doubt, from his symptoms, when ordered to Fort Kent, he was suffering under tubercular deposition of the lungs.”

A gentleman in the city of New York, of good common sense, and more than ordinary judgment, upon a recent visit to that city, remarked to the writer, substantially, as follows: “our physicians miss it very much in advising consumptive patients to go South. They die sooner than they would at home. My oldest son was engaged to a worthy young lady, whom her physician said was in consumption. I advised him in the winter to go North with her. Contrary to the wishes of her friends and the advice of her physicians but in accordance with my direction, he took her in the winter to the northern part of Canada. They have now been there three months, during which time, the disease has not only been held at bay, but she has actually gained strength and the cough has abated.”

From these and many other considerations which might be offered, I am persuaded that a great error has been committed in sending consumptives to the South. But it does not follow that, because the old practice of exclu-

ding consumptive patients from the air, and dosing and drugging them, as above stated, hastened their death, that all medical advice, nor all medicine even should be abandoned. On the contrary, medical advice is often of the greatest importance to the invalid. Not, indeed, always to tell him what he must “take,” but what he must, and what he must not do.

Any mesmeric old woman, or any charlatan can tell how to “make up bitters,” “salves,” and “cure-alls,” but this is not the grand object of medical science. If it were, it would be much better, if King “Frank” should banish all physicians from America, as Nero did from Rome. But it would not be so. Physicians *are* useful. They can, and do, often relieve many of the sorest “ills that flesh is heir to.” They can, and do, often put a patient upon a course of living which results in the restoration of impaired health, and the lengthening out of life.

Nor, is the use of all *medicine* to be discarded, because some persons, either with, or without the advice of physicians, have turned their stomachs into apothecary shops, and shortened their lives by “dosing and drugging.” It was never a dictate of common-sense, that, because a man shuns *Charybdis*, he *must* fall into *Scylla*.

Some persons, as for instance, the Hydro-pathist, (and many other *pathists*, might be added,) can never get more than one idea into their heads. Hence, if *water* is good for some things, it is for all, with them. *They* abominate *all* medicine.

There are now, and ever have been, men, and women, too, with whom it was of no manner of use to reason. You might as well talk with the wind as with them, and you will come as near silencing an echo by loudness of voice, as convincing such by argument. Unfortunately, the profession or science of medicine is not, and from the very nature of the case, never can be, one of the *exact* sciences. The consequence is, that all kinds of quackery, charlatanism, humbugry, and delusion will crowd into, and hang about it. But the greatest of all barriers to the progress of medical science, and medicine, is, the manner in which doctors devour each other. No class of men will be respected and esteemed by the community, who do not respect and esteem each other; and, possibly, this remark applies even to the sacred profession of the clergy. If they “bite and devour each other,” it, indeed, behooves them to “take heed that they be not devoured one of another.”

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

Translated from the German by H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M. D.

INTESTINAL CATARRH OF CHILDREN.

By Dr. Kafka, of Prague.

(From the Prague Monatschrift für Hom. &c.)

A series of cases, which have come under my observation and treatment, are here presented for the purpose of showing how the Homœopathic practitioner, relying on the principle of similarity, can cope with, and effect a speedy and lasting cure in the most acute, painful, obstinate and exhausting forms of diarrhoea, without the use of gum acacia or salep, without opium or acetate of lead, without alum, sulphate of iron, or nitrate of silver, without colombo, cascarilla or tannin, without inunctions or injections, but with the most simple specific remedies, accordingly as they are indicated by the complex of symptoms in each separate case. It is to be hoped that these cases will tend to demonstrate the *positive, quick, and sure* effect of Homœopathic remedies, which is still doubted by so many practitioners, and it is so often answered by a simple negation, instead of being tested by experiment.

Each of these cases has been taken from my diary, and reported as briefly as possible.

A PAINFUL DIARRHOEA.

Case I. Nov. 28th, 1851. The patient, a boy 2 years of age, has been suffering for 10 days from a very painful diarrhoea. He is pale, and appears as if in great suffering; there is no emaciation, the surface is cool, the tongue moist, considerable appetite when there is a cessation of the pain, no vomiting, the abdomen distended, giving a clear sound on percussion, at all points, the hypogastrium sensitive on pressure. The discharges, which occur almost every hour, are without odor, muco-serous, and hitherto not bloody. They are preceded and followed by the most violent pains, contortions of the extremities and plaintive cries. A violent tenesmus causes the protrusion of about an inch of the rectum; at this time the pain and crying is most violent, but with the gradual return of the rectum, which lasts from 10 to 15 minutes, the pain also grows less. Then there is a pause of 15 or 20 minutes, during which the exhausted child either sleeps or takes some nourishment.

During the attack, the extremities become cool, and are covered at the upper parts by a cold perspiration, while at the same time the

head becomes hot and the face flushed. The portion of the rectum which protrudes during the discharge, has its normal color, but is very sensitive to the touch. The anus is reddened, but not eroded.

Prescribed *Gamboge*, 2d trituration, ($\frac{1}{16}$ gr. p. d.) one powder every two hours. The third dose was followed by a refreshing sleep, which lasted all night without interruption. The patient did not take over 8 powders in all before recovering.

Case II. October 10th, 1852. The patient, a girl 2 years of age, was in the same condition as the above, only the discharges were mostly bloody, and had a very putrid odor. Duration of the disease, 5 days.

Proscribed *Aloes*, 2d dilution, 10 drops in half a glass of water, 2 teaspoons full every 2 hours. Recovered in 36 hours.

Case III. March 4th, 1850. A child of 3 months has had, for 8 days, serous, bloody discharges, mixed with much tenacious mucus, and of an acid smell, together with very violent abdominal pains. There are about 6 discharges during the day, and double that number during the night. During the day the infant cries only before and during the discharges, after which it becomes quiet, hastily takes the breast, and then goes to sleep; but at night it cries without cessation, keeps the legs drawn towards the abdomen, and cannot take the breast on account of the continuous pain. The abdomen is sensitive about the umbilicus, and gives everywhere a clear sound on percussion. There is slight tenesmus, the anus is reddened and sore.

After prescribing *Jalap*, 1st trituration, ($\frac{1}{16}$ gr. p. d.) one powder every 2 hours, there was complete recovery in 24 hours.

Case IV. April 29th, 1852. An infant of 3 months had the same symptoms as the patient in *Case III*, with the difference that the mucus contained in the discharges was of a greenish hue, mixed with small lumpy masses.

6 doses of *calomel*, 1st trituration, ($\frac{1}{16}$ gr. p. d.) one powder every 2 hours, sufficed for a permanent cure.

Case V. Jan. 24th, 1853. A child of 5 months has had diarrhoea for 4 days. The discharges resemble chopped eggs, have an acid smell, become green on cooling, and are accompanied by tenesmus, crying, and drawing up of the thighs towards the abdomen. The patient's breath has a sour smell, and sometimes there is vomiting of acid, cheese-like matter. The abdomen is painful about the umbilicus, the anus is reddened and sore.

Rheum, 1st trituration, ($\frac{1}{10}$ gr. p. d.) one powder every 2 hours, effected a cure in 24 hours.

Case VI. Apr. 10th, 1853. The same condition as in *Case V*, with the difference that there was a decided exacerbation at night, and that the patient had also a cold in the head and a dry cough.

Cured in 36 hours with *Chamomilla*, 2d dilution, 10 drops in half a glass of water, 2 teaspoons full every hour.

Case VII. Oct. 14th, 1854. A pale, bloated, light complexioned boy has had for 8 days, a mucous diarrhoea, occurring mostly at night, accompanied by colicky pains before the discharge, and burning at the anus after it. The tongue is considerably coated, the appetite is wanting, the abdomen distended, the extremities cool.

Prescribed *Pulsatilla*, 2d dilution, 10 drops in half a glass of water, 2 teaspoons full every hour. In 24 hours the diarrhoea had ceased, and, on continuing the same remedy every 2 hours for 4 days, the other symptoms were also removed.

Case VIII. Apr. 4th, 1854. A girl of 3 years has a watery diarrhoea, with the same symptoms as in the preceding case; but the discharges occur only in the morning, from 5 to 9 o'clock. They follow each other in rapid succession, and there is at the same time a running cold in the head, with sore nostrils.

Rhus toxicodendron, 2d dilution, given as above, cured the diarrhoea in 48 hours, and the appearances of catarrh of the stomach and head in 6 days.

Case IX. Sep. 8th, 1853. A girl of 5 years has discharges, sometimes watery, sometimes slimy, and sometimes dark brown and faecal, with the same accompanying symptoms as in the last two cases; but the discharges occur during the day as well as at night.

Dulcamara, 2d dilution, given as above, cured the diarrhoea in 2 days, and the gastric catarrh in 5 days.

Case X. Aug. 5th, 1852. A boy of 3 years, after overloading his stomach with sweet and fat pastry, was taken with a foamy diarrhoea, having a very offensive odor. The discharges, which occurred about once an hour, were preceded by violent pain, as well as eructations and nausea. Emesis of an acid smelling matter had occurred once. There is tenesmus after every discharge, the pain lasting about 15 minutes. Face pale, great depression and coldness of the extremities.

6 doses of *Ipecacuanha*, 2d dilution, were followed by an amelioration, and the patient was well in 24 hours.

Case XI. July 20th, 1854. A girl 4 years of age drank a large quantity of cold water on a very hot day, and in consequence was attacked by frequent bilious vomiting, and very painful watery diarrhoea. There was also great depression, faintness and nausea, pale skin and cold extremities.

Prescribed *veratrum*, 2d dilution, 10 drops in half a glass of water, 2 teaspoons full every 15 minutes. In two hours every appearance of the disease was removed.

Case XII. Dec. 5th, 1853. A girl 10 months old, who has been weaned since 2 weeks, and is getting its teeth, has had a diarrhoea for 8 days. There are from 12 to 15 discharges in 24 hours. They are of a putrid odor, partly of a watery, partly of a green mucous consistence, accompanied by evident weakness, unquenchable thirst, great pallor of the surface and rapid emaciation.

Arsenic, 3d dilution, 10 drops in half a glass of water, a teaspoon full every hour. Cured in 3 days.

Case XIII. Apr. 24th, 1854. A female child, 1 year old, which was weaned 6 weeks ago, offers the same group of symptoms, only the discharges are most violent at night, and there is an evident remission during the day.

Prescribed *arsenic* without effect. Then *Mercurius solubilis*, 2d trituration, 1 grain every 2 hours. There was already great improvement during the following night, and in 4 days the patient had recovered.

Case XIV. Aug. 10th, 1850. A strong boy 3 years old has an inclination to go to stool almost every 10 minutes; at the same time there is violent pain, and his efforts are generally unsuccessful. 3 or 4 times in 24 hours there is a dark-colored fluid and foetid discharge. There is increased warmth and heaviness of the head, the tongue is thickly coated, the appetite is wanting, there is frequent eructation and increased thirst.

Nux vomica, 3d dilution, 10 drops in half a glass of water, 1 teaspoon full every half hour. The tenesmus was removed in 6 hours, and the other symptoms in 4 days.

Case XV. Nov. 18th, 1850. A girl of 2 years presents the same appearances as the patient in the last case, but without any symptoms of gastric catarrh.

Sulphur, 3d dilution, 1 drop on a powder of sugar of milk, a dose every 4 hours, sufficed to effect a permanent cure.

(To be concluded.)

Note by the Translator. Having translated for the first number of the Medical World, an article on the use of *Gamboge* in the treatment of diarrhoea, I thought that a brief mention of some of the other remedies used in Homœo-

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

IMPERIAL CYCLOPÆDIA OF MACHINERY.—A good surgeon must necessarily be a natural mechanic. He will be an unsuccessful operator, and move in a small sphere, who has no appreciation of mechanical contrivances, and who, from the resources within, cannot meet an unlooked for emergency, through his own innate ingenuity. There are two kinds of surgeons everywhere, viz., the natural and the unnatural. The first possess the ready power of adapting themselves instantly to circumstances, and if an artery bleeds at an obscure point, if the tenaculum is not quite fitted to the condition of the parts, they see at a glance the defect, and as quickly give it the right shape. The other cuts artistically by the book. Any deviation from the exact description of the author, throws him into a perplexity. He cannot comprehend anomalies even in anatomy. Very many medical practitioners recreate themselves from the severe demands of professional labor, by devising and constructing machines for various economical purposes. Several, whose names might be cited, have distinguished themselves as inventors, and profited largely by the exercise of their ingenuity; the Imperial Cyclopædia of Machinery, and the Journal of Art and Science are published in Glasgow, Scotland, and may be had of Messrs. Russell, No. 12 Tremont St., Boston. Medical men must have rational amusements, like other people, and there is something pleasant in the idea of turning even pleasures to good account. There are narrow-minded cynics in the profession who frown upon every thing which they themselves dislike. A show of sovereign contempt for any deviation from the solemnities of inspecting a pimple, or giving a professional opinion in regard to taking off or putting on a flannel night-cap, is immensely important with

pathic practice for this disease, might prove of interest to the readers of this journal. For this purpose I have prepared the essay of Dr. Kafka on the treatment of infantile diarrhœa, which contains a very satisfactory enumeration of the principal drugs applied in this disease, as well as a good synopsis of the symptoms, and pathological processes which indicate their use. The remedies which have been mentioned may be called *specifics* in a certain sense. Not one of them is a specific against diarrhœa as a class, to be given indiscriminately in any form or stage of the disorder, but every one of them is a specific in a certain distinct and separate form of disease, when applied according to its indication by the complex of symptoms and pathological appearances.

This necessity of individualizing, and making a well defined analysis of every case, and of the remedy applied to its treatment, is one of the prominent features of Homœopathic practice. It certainly makes the duties of the physicians more laborious, but it rewards him with the prospect of finally possessing a system of therapeutics, certain in its facts, and reliable in its results. H. L. H. H.

those whose intellectual grasp is confined to small objects.

It is always advisable to avail ourselves of the best advice, experience and teachings of those who have gone before us. Thus the most learned authors, and the most perfectly finished instruments, should be had at the onset. Otherwise, time, an essential element of life, is lost. These considerations have prompted us to the foregoing observations respecting the two works now coming monthly from Scotland, which would prove a source of rational gratification to those in the medical ranks who have constructiveness largely developed.

BOOK OF PSYCHOLOGY.—A copy has been received, but we do not know to whom an obligation is due for the civility. If after reading it any progress is made in comprehending what the wisest physiologists have not fathomed,—mental phenomena,—we shall certainly publish the result. Is it possible that the author of this small book can solve great problems with as much ease as he pretends? There is a thick web of imposition about amulets, charms, fascinations, &c., which may astonish vulgar minds, but the learned have long since ascended to an atmosphere above those low puerilities.

That the author is fond of Moore's Melodies is apparent:—

Mine is the charm whose mystic sway,
The spirits of past delight to obey;
Let but the tuneful talisman sound,
And they come like genii hovering round.

The book on Psychology will have a further examination, when leisure permits.

PHYSICIAN'S VISITING LIST FOR 1857.—All the journals speak extremely well of this little annual, and any criticisms at this late date, might be looked upon, therefore, as being a day after the fair. However, whether others think so or not, it will not restrain us from saying that it is too thick and too heavy.

The plan is excellent, and it is a convenience which no one would like to be deprived of, who has become accustomed to the orderly form it gives a physician's business, who makes his regular daily memoranda in it. If designed for the pocket, the diary is unnecessarily clumsy. On the other hand, were it to be carried in the lining of a carriage, or under the cushion, no diminution either in length, breadth or thickness is required.

Without knowing the author to whom we are all indebted for the Physician's Visiting List, it strikes us that there would not be a

dissenting voice, were the question asked thus—Is it not excellent?

Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston, 25 South street, above Chestnut, Philadelphia, are the publishers. In Boston, copies may be had at Williams & Co.'s, 100 Washington street, where orders for medical works generally, are promptly answered, and despatched to the remotest part of New England.

STERILITY.—Messrs. DeWitt & Davenport, a New York publishing house, have sent forth a neatly executed volume, bearing this title, viz.: *The Causes and Curative Treatment of Sterility, with a preliminary statement of the Physiology of Generation, with colored engravings and numerous wood-cut illustrations*, by Augustus K. Gardner, M. D.

After a critical perusal of the text, we have arrived at the conclusion that the work may not receive the amount of professional patronage it deserves, from an idea which the title unfortunately conveys, that the author intended the book for unprofessional readers. The latter, on taking it up, by the discovery of various technical terms beyond their comprehension, would be very likely to have the impression that it was particularly designed for the use of medical practitioners, and therefore purchasers might be limited in that direction.

Some misapprehension of this kind may possibly account for the neglect of journalists to speak very decidedly respecting Dr. Gardner's labors. There are many curious anatomical displays, and a collection of physiological facts interspersed through one hundred and sixty-two octavo pages, of which no physician should be ignorant. Dr. Gardner seems to have collected the latest discoveries and opinions, and so arranged them in constructing chapters, that high authority is before us in reference to some of nature's mysterious operations. Still, she has been too vigilant for the prying eyes of philosophers, and physiologists are still groping their way in a dark chamber without having ascertained how a new being actually commences existence.

Of the typography, the firm white paper and general finish of the book, no better advertisement could have been sent abroad to show the skill and ambition of the publishers.

If there is any failure in the success of sales, it will be through the misapprehension, already referred to on the part of two interested parties,—both imagining the author did not design it for them.

While reflecting upon the subject of which

Dr. Gardner treats, sterility is a topic not to be discussed in any common manner. When the vast number of murders in utero is considered, which are constantly being perpetrated—for it is practised with a pertinacity truly shocking in all the great cities, which no police scrutiny can reach,—it looks as though a remedy for sterility was not much sought for by any body. Still, physicians should avail themselves of all the researches that properly belong to their domain, and hence they ought to take to themselves this recent production. Independently of the specific design of Dr. Gardner, to explain the various causes of barrenness, there are lines upon lines and precept upon precept that every practitioner should fully understand, and the more familiar he becomes with the teachings of this beautifully printed treatise, the more certain he will be that it was never intended to gratify the prurient curiosity of vulgar minds, nor lessen the dignity of a noble profession.

TABLE OF URINARY DEPOSITS.—On a single, large white sheet of firm paper, John King, M. D., of Cincinnati has presented a complete scientific history of urinary deposits, with their microscopical and chemical tests, for clinical examination.

There are ten columns of closely printed matter, interspersed with xylographic illustrations,—thirteen in all. Each one represents a condition of the urine. There are elaborate tabular statements that indicate a laborious exercise of patient industry on the part of the author. He probably collected from every reliable source, so that this chart may be contemplated as a distinct treatise. Indeed, were it folded and refolded into a 12mo, it would be a tolerable sized pocket remembrancer. As it is, the form is convenient for suspending in the library, or when pasted on cloth, for rolling up like a map.

Fifty cents is but a trifle for this faithful guide. A student, with this accurate table before him, and the proper surroundings, could readily decide a problem, in reference to a patient. The variety of uric acid crystals reminds one of the forms presented under the kaleidoscope. Facilities of this kind are appreciated by medical practitioners, who have not an opportunity for leisurely perusing a volume, as in the days of their pupilage.

A CHART OF INCOMPATIBLES AND POISONS.—From Cincinnati we have received another tabular instructor, with the above title, embrac-

ing the chemical theory of the former, and the antidotes, tests, &c., appropriate to the latter, by J. W. Hoyt, M. D. On the left is a column of inorganics; next, incompatibles; third, products, and so on, beginning with acids in general and ending, alphabetically, at sodæ sulphus. Then come the columns of organic bodies. A fourth column exhibits parts acted upon; the symptoms, and post mortem appearances. Then come the antidotes. For example,—Strychnia is an organic body. Incompatibles,—alkalies and their salts and tronic acid. Products,—precipitate of strychnia, tannate of strychnia. Finally, chemical tests,—together with instruction in the fewest words, completes the tabular statements. Without having the opinion of those whose opinions would command respect, we cannot resist the conviction that this chart is a meritorious production,—compiled from the latest authorities.

If medical students do not store their memories with knowledge in this age of facilities, they should be frowned upon. Instead of researches through a dozen chemical authors, the whole that science has unfolded in this particular field has been both reaped and garnered. By sliding a finger from one column to another, all the discoveries are taken in at sight. Medical schools are the places where copies should be placed on sale. Because it is useful, every student would be benefited by the minute condensation of facts.

PRONOUNCING MEDICAL LEXICON.—Without exception, to our knowledge, the medical press speaks in commendatory terms of this novel production. The dry bones and fossil remains of medical antiquity are considerably disturbed of late, at the departure that is recognized in the sentiments and writings of a new generation of professionals, who, instead of standing still in the illustrious footsteps of their predecessors, dare to move on a new track, and express progressive opinions.

Uniformity in the pronunciation of technical terms is of more consequence than those whose opportunities for a finished academical education may imagine. Some of the names of muscles, for example, are frightful to a student. So also is the nomenclature of diseases; and finally, ranging through the branches properly embraced in the study of medicine, a beginner scarcely dare hazard the pronunciation of some of these singularly constructed, but generally expressive words, till he has heard some person whom he presumes to be perfectly correct, and therefore good authority. Even

among professors in the same school and room, it is not uncommon to perceive a vast difference in their pronunciation of identical terms. Considerations of this character probably induced the author of an admirably executed portable dictionary, in which the true sound and value and each letter is expressed, to undertake the literary enterprise. It is quite as proper for physicians to be accurate in the language of their science, as it is to speak and write their vernacular accurately.

Teachers and students will be most benefited by this convenient hand-book, whose author is C. H. Cleveland, M. D., member of the American Medical Association, &c. He has coupled or rather sprinkled through the three hundred and two twelve-mo pages, phonetic letters, which may be essential to a full understanding of the elements of pronunciation. Our object has been to ascertain whether the Pronouncing Dictionary is a useful publication. Our convictions are these, viz.: that it will have the effect of establishing uniformity,—and correct vulgarisms in the pronunciation of medical language. Every student in lecture term would find in this compact, cheap book, an invaluable assistant,—since it combines a clear explanation of terms. The main feature is distinct throughout, and therefore it will have the preference, especially with students, over more elaborate but not more exact lexicons.

MUSPRATT'S CHEMISTRY.—Messrs. Russell & Bro., 12 Tremont st., Boston, have received the twenty-first number of Prof. Muspratt's admirable system of Chemistry, as applied to arts and manufactures. It is possible that the exceeding value of this publication is not generally known in this country, in the very places where it would be of the highest utility. The beautifully executed miniatures of celebrated living chemists which accompany the monthly numbers, would be prized by all lovers of art, unconnected with the work. Medical gentlemen who are in the habit of experimenting in any particular branch of chemistry,—such for example, as coloring,—the mixing of different ingredients for any purpose, in the arts, would derive assistance from this publication that they might not otherwise arrive at in a year by groping through ordinary libraries. There is a complete revelation of many mysteries which are kept as important secrets by various classes of manufacturers. In short, it explains all kinds of processes, and shows how true it is, that knowledge is power.

FLOATING FACTS.

A Consumptive Family.—A singular insurance case has recently occurred at Liverpool. A surgeon sent a proposal to insure the life of one Thomas Lawne to the Merchants' and Tradesmen's Life Assurance Company. The surgeon himself filled up the proposal. He was medical referee to the Company, and in that capacity examined and reported upon the health of the proposer and the history and health of the family. In reply to questions distinctly asking whether consumption was or had been in the family, he stated that the mother died "shortly after confinement," whereas she really died eight months afterwards and of consumption; that a brother and sister died of chest disease, whereas they really died of consumption; that the family then consisted of five brothers and sisters "alive," although a brother at the time was in the last stages of consumption, and a sister died of consumption seven months afterwards, and must have been out of health. The Company refused to pay, and the executrix brought an action, which she has lost.—*Exam.*

Ancient Quacks.—It will appear from the following, copied from the records of Massachusetts, that the early fathers of the Commonwealth were more severe upon quacks than we are. "Nich. Knopp is fined five shillings for takeing upon him to cure the scurvy by a water of no worth nor value, which he sold at a very dear rate; to be imprisoned till he pay his fine, or give security for it, or else to be whipped, and shall be liable to any man's action of whom he hath received money for the said water."

Delusion.—On Thursday afternoon, Mr. Jardine, Solicitor to the Treasury, accompanied by Sergeant Lockyer, of the detective police, left town for St. Alban's for the purpose of inquiring into the conduct of a Mr. C. Parker, who has for the past two years resided in that neighborhood, and who has lately attracted attention in consequence of his strange assertions respecting himself. The object of the above gentleman's visiting St. Albans and the facts of the case are briefly these:—Recently, and so late as the 4th of March, two letters, purporting to come from Mr. C. Parker, as above, were received at the Palace, addressed to her Majesty, in the first of which the writer, after describing himself as the prophet Elijah, proceeds to assert his right to the crown, and requires of her Majesty to sur-

render her rights and dignities to him as the Prophet chosen of God. If her Majesty refused, then he would command it by main force, at the point of the bayonet, and her Majesty was to abide the consequences when he ascended the throne. The second letter held out no personal threat. The unfortunate man was conveyed to the station, where evidence was taken as to his state of mind and his strange conduct for the last twelve months. Dr. J. P. Nicholson gave it as his opinion that Mr. Parker was of unsound mind, and that it was necessary to place him under restraint. The accused reiterated to the bench his conviction that he had been actually commissioned of God; that he was mentioned in the second and last verses of the Old Testament, and again in Revelation; and that God intended to confer upon him unlimited power and wealth in this country. An order having been made for his removal to Bethlehem Lunatic Asylum he was taken from the town the same evening for London. He is very respectably connected, and has a brother a barrister in the Temple.

Law without Reason.—At a recent convocation in the Celestial Empire, it was resolved that the standard of that country was right, and that all people should have shoes made after their measure. It was objected that this course would be unnatural, and that shoes should be large or small, according to the size of the feet. But one arose, and reading a passage from a sacred book, proceeded to prove that Nature was not the standard in the Celestial Empire; that if some persons have large feet, the fault is theirs, and that it was the legitimate business of the meeting to determine the size of shoes, which was accordingly done.

Table-Turners at Geneva, Switzerland.—A set of table-turners have constituted themselves into a religious society; they meet regularly in a chapel erected on a spot indicated by the sacred table. There are included in this society (strange as it may appear), wealthy merchants, capitalists, Calvinistic preachers, and a professor of mathematics. It has been two years in existence, and though still small, is gradually and steadily increasing. The first number of a periodical, dictated by the table, in very pure and good French, has just appeared.

An Ancient Reformer.—Socrates was a reformer. It was not so much the morals which he taught that made him objectionable, but it was the continued attacks upon the

Sophists, who had great influence. A leather-dresser, by the name of Meletus, 399 years B. C., brought against him accusations, "That he searches into things in heaven and things under the earth, that he does not believe there are Gods, and that he makes the worse appear the better reason, and that he violates the laws by corrupting the youth." He was condemned to death, and took the hemlock.

A young woman committed suicide by taking twenty-five cents' worth of laudanum recently in Boston, procured at a drug-store; which is another argument in favor of a law prohibiting the sale of opium, chloroform, or poisons, without the certificate of a physician.

Hasty Burials.—Daniel Sterns, Esq., of Fremont, Ohio, who had been ill with fever for some time, to all appearances died on Friday afternoon. His burial was to take place on Sunday afternoon, all the arrangements were made and the friends and the clergyman were assembled to pay the last tribute of respect to the supposed deceased, when the body appeared warm to the touch. Restoratives were administered, and in a few minutes the man who had come so near being buried alive was sitting up.

Narcotics.—Tobacco is produced to the extent of 4,480,000 pounds annually, and is used by eight hundred millions of men. Opium, among 400,000,000 of men; Indian Hemp, among 250,000; Betel-nut, (*pinang*), among 100,000,000 of men; Cocoa, among 10,000,000 of men.

HAWAIIAN GROUP OF SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.—The practice of medicine was unknown in ancient times in these Islands. They had no physicians, or medicine men, which are an institution with the American Indians. Two kinds of medical treatment, only, were practised, if they can be so denominated, which were these: When any one had eaten too much, they drank sea water in large measure to produce a cathartic operation. They resorted, under certain conditions of the body, to *loomi-loomi*, which was simply kneading the flesh with the hands, which is still pursued for pains and fatigue in the limbs. It was a custom with the females to produce early miscarriages by kneading the abdomen.

In comparatively modern times, however, the practice of medicine took its rise among these people, in this wise, according to tradition: In the reign of Atapia, the predecessor of Kalaiopua, who was king when Capt. Cook, the great navigator, visited the Islands, an epidemic broke out; a class of natives commenced prescribing for the sick, and being a convenience, they greatly increased in the reign of Kamehameha I; and from that period onward, these seemed on the increase till the Europeans and Americans stepped in and took away their vocation.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 22, 1856.

PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.—A large volume is before us, published in London, A. D. 1681, bearing this title in large letters, viz.:—*Musæum Regalis Societatis, or a Catalogue and Description of the Natural and Artificial Rarities belonging to the Royal Society, and preserved at Gresham College, made by Nehemiah Grew, M. D., Fellow of the Royal Society, and of the College of Physicians; whereunto is subjoined the Comparative Anatomy of the Stomach and Guts, by the same Author.*

Dr. Grew, on the fifth page, in enumerating the curiosities of the cabinet, speaks thus of a human skeleton:—"The skeleton of a man, wherein the number is about two hundred and fifty. Of all human bones, indifferently as well as the skull, are prepared,—*Spiritus Simplicior, Spiritus Oleosus, Oleum Rectificatum and Magisterium*,—among which, *Spiritus Oleosus*, if well prepared, is of undoubted use against Hysterical Passions; and in some other cases, where the nerves are especially affected. The skull of the male skeleton is much bigger than of the female, and also capable of more brains, although a little house may be well furnished and look better than a great one that stands empty."

Page 8th. "A human skull covered all over with moss, by the Paracellians, called *Usnea*. This moss is by them commended for its peculiar virtue in stopping of bleeding at the nose. Here is also the draught of another tooth, taken also from the ovary of a woman, by the same hand, being shaped pretty like one of the grinders, or great teeth, and as big. It is as white and as hard as the former. (*Referring to the description of another.*) The woman's husband keeps the tooth itself by him."

Page 10th. "A Monkey. *Cercopithecus*: qu. *Simia caudata*. See the description and figures of several kinds in Aldrovandus, Masgravius, and others. Aldrovandus speaks of some as big as a mastiff, having tails five cubits long. In Brasile, there is a sort of yellowish monkey, which smells like musk,—in which place there are numerous and great variety. As also in all mountainous places in the East Indies. As they climb the trees, if in danger of falling, they save themselves not only with their feet, but their tails, by wrapping them round about the next bough. The *Zyngantes of Africa* esteem them good meat."

Page 48th. "The skin of a Boignacu,—a serpent so called by the natives of Brasile. As far as can now be seen, it is mixed of ash-colour with cancellated work of Roun; somewhat after the manner as in divers other Indian serpents. Towards the head it is somewhat slenderer than about the middle, where it is in compass half a yard. It is almost seven yards long. See the description of the Serpent in Piso. He is, of all other kinds, the greatest. But not so *venomous* as

many others. I have now, at home, saith Bontius, the skin of a serpent (of this kind), twelve yards long, which I killed in a wood in Java. And in that kingdom was one taken, thirteen yards and a-half long, with a boar in her belly, — of which being boyl'd, the general, D. Petrus, and others, did eat a part. And Job. de Laet reports that in Rio de la Plata, a province of the West Indies, there are some *quatuor Orgyas longi*, and so big as to swallow a stag whole, horns and all. Of such kind of serpents, see also Marcus Paulus Venetus and Athan-Kircher."

"At a meeting of the Council of the Royal Society, July 5th, 1679, ordered, that a book entitled *Musæum Regalis Societatis*, &c., by Nehemiah Grew, be printed." "Thom. Henshaw, Vice-Præses, R. S."

PHYSICIANS TURNED POLITICIANS.—Wherever the political cauldron is boiling most intensely, in the United States, there is a strong representation from the medical ranks of the whole country. They are stump-orators in one place; on barbecue committees in another; presidents and secretaries at caucuses. They make speeches to all parties, and represent as many isms in the political chaos of 1856, as there are shades of difference in the opinions of voters. In the Legislature, in Congress, in the Bureaus at Washington, on an arctic voyage, holding a surgency in the army or navy, lecturing at a college, before a lyceum, or simply acting as a literary correspondent of a daily newspaper, they are always prompt, competent, ardent, and hoping to be paid for their services. Formerly, the lawyers engrossed all the prominence to be had in political organizations; but, latterly, the *Æsculapians*, like the young Lion in an assembly of animals that, for the first time, heard it announced, by the King of Beasts, *that their claws were designed to be used*, have taken position among those operators, who declare they have no ambition beyond the good of the dear people. The study of medicine actually qualifies a man to act well his part, — and there all the honor lies. If they were better patronized and properly remunerated for the exercise of their skill, they would eschew politics, and devote themselves exclusively to healing the sick — a noble vocation.

MELANCHOLY.—Excessive grief may end in confirmed melancholy. Satiety is another predisposing cause of the same malady. A middle station in society is the safest, upon the same principle that sea-sickness is kept off longer by standing near the mainmast, the centre of motion in the vessel. Over-fed and not fed at all, are equally dangerous. The highest and lowest extremes in the social scale are exposed to the contingency of melancholy; but no one thinks of hanging himself immediately after a frugal dinner; keeping wolves from the door and hunger from the stomach by daily personal effort, was never known to end in confirmed melancholy.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INSANITY.—Three months is a long time to wait for the appearance of this excellent publication. It has reached the second number of the third volume, being issued quarterly, at Utica, N. Y., and edited by the medical officers of the New York State Lunatic Asylum. If not extensively circulated, it deserves a wide range of patronage, on account of the collection of facts with which it abounds, of the highest interest to people of intelligence without the pale of the medical profession. Great principles are sometimes discussed, and judicial opinions cited from sources in this and other countries, that may have an influence in determining legal questions in regard to the perpetration of crimes; the disposition of property, and the general acts of those whose minds are not alike sound on all subjects.

Next to the Law Reporter, a periodical sustained by members of the bar, this would furnish gentlemen of the long robe with an immense amount of profitable information and suggestions, no where else to be found in a form so acceptable.

There is one noble feature discoverable throughout the series of the Journal of Insanity, that may have been recognized by others; viz., its humanity, arguments in favor of the law of kindness towards lunatics, and apologies for the waywardness of those laboring under any form of mental aberration.

Occasionally this quarterly is over-burdened with an article which is disproportioned to its dimensions. When a communication excludes by its length that pleasant variety on which the real vitality of a serial depends, then it is too long. Dr. Peet's paper on the legal rights and responsibilities of the deaf and dumb might be cited as an example, — engrossing seventy-four closely printed octavo pages. Yet in that particular instance, it would have been difficult to curtail its dimensions, and equally a problem to ascertain how to divide it into parts, to appear profitably at intervals of thirteen weeks. The sentiments and legal views collected by the author, indicate profound research and a deep interest in placing deaf mutes before an intelligent community in their proper position. Their rights as citizens, their moral accountability, and the modifying character which education exerts upon their condition, in relation to society, give a charm to Dr. Peet's prelections, which truth alone imparts to any inquiry involving the consideration of principles like those contemplated by the learned writer.

We recommend to those who have not subscribed for this useful journal, to order it at once.

PEPPERELL INSTITUTION FOR THE INSANE.—In the charming rural town of Pepperell, Mass., only 37 miles northwest from Boston, accessible by fine roads, Dr. Cutter, a veteran in the management of all forms of insanity, has a private asylum which has had an excellent reputation for many years. Its advantages

over public institutions are obvious. Comfort, economy, pure air and unremitting medical supervision, are considerations with those who are obliged to place their unfortunate friends under treatment from home.

Dr. Cutter's establishment has the reputation of combining a family organization with an admirable system of such curative measures as experience and scientific researches command. In the treatment of those complicated nervous affections in which females are peculiar sufferers, Dr. Cutter is recognized throughout an extensive region of country, as eminently successful. It is not by dosing and drugging that he calms the frenzy of a patient. Exercise, in door and out; strict regard to regimen; personal attention to each individual, and a ready power of adapting himself to the circumstances of each individual confided to his care, have given Dr. Cutter a reputation which any ambitious professional gentleman might be proud to possess.

LETTER TO A MEMBER OF THE CONNECTICUT MEDICAL SOCIETY.—Whatever may be written on the subject of medicine, whether we like it or not, belongs to the medical literature of the day. "None are so deaf as those who refuse to hear." None are so ignorant of the progress of the medical science as those who refuse to read anything that happens to deviate from their particular standard. We have been led to these reflections by a small publication addressed to a member of the Connecticut Medical Society, by Wm. W. Rodman, M. D., of Waterbury. The American, Advocate of the Union, and the Democrat, three papers, speak in the kindest manner of the author, as one "that adorns the medical profession in the State."

But Dr Rodman has dared to be independent,—preferring to think for himself instead of saying amen to what his conscience forbids; and he must suffer literary martyrdom at the hands of old friends, who, with masks on, don't like to be recognized in their persecutions. Of course we know nothing of the value of homœopathy beyond what is written; but we claim to be reasonable, and therefore sit down to a treatise on potencies, or puerperal fever, with an equal expectation of acquiring something from every intelligent source.

Dr. Rodman's publication is a calm, dispassionate examination of the merits of one form of practice over another; and his decision is in favor of homœopathy. It requires no small effort, we apprehend, to keep in good temper and be incessantly criticised, suspected of not being very honest, and sometimes plainly told so, because one may differ from a brother physician respecting the size of the dose each proposes to prescribe. No one ought to be offended, however, with reasonings that follow:—

"Among the reasons why homœopathy has met no better reception from you, we deem it right to admit that it has not always been laid before you in such a manner as was most likely to secure a favorable attention.

Gratifying as it would be, aye, and profitable too, were the whole pamphlet republished in The Medical World, an accumulation of manuscript compels us to forego that pleasure for the present.

"We now come to you, (says Dr. Rodman) with the inquiry, must this ill feeling continue? The half century over which the controversy has been extended, has witnessed important modifications of the views entertained on your side on the subjects at issue between us. Is it not obvious that there are points, at first sight unseen, where the two systems harmonize?"

Here is a show of the olive branch. Procure Dr. Rodman's Letter to a Member of the Medical Society of Connecticut, and read it attentively.

WINTER RETREAT FOR INVALIDS. — Once a year certainly, the question is debated by physicians,—where is it best to send our patients in the winter, who cannot withstand the severities of the North? Both the clear cold weather of Lower Canada, and the mild climate of the extreme South, have their advocates; but neither of them answer the full expectations of those who are hoping for relief. If the invalid should take up a permanent abode at either point, the prospect would be promising; but they are no sooner conscious of feeling improved, than the objectionable months at home have rolled away, and they return to be re-prostrated by those sudden changes of temperature which are characteristic of the northern group of States. From years of observation, we have arrived at the conclusion that the comforts and domestic associations of one's own home are far superior to the temporary advantages derived from an expensive temporary residence abroad, to avoid a winter. We have a very exalted opinion of the atmospheric benefits of Kansas, for ladies and gentlemen of a consumptive habit, as well as those who bleed from the lungs. Having been in the territory, and had ocular proofs of the restorative influences of that charming climate for that class of valetudinarians, we respectfully recommend them to strike boldly for that magnificent country, and become permanent settlers. If they can recover anywhere, or prolong life, by a removal from New England, Kansas offers the boon. Of the particulars respecting latitude and longitude; the range of temperature in summer, variations in winter; winds, rains, &c., which are usually taken into account in escaping from an unfavorable section of the Union, in search of a better, it is quite unnecessary to detail them here. Every recently published geography ought to furnish them.

Go and become farmers and farmers' wives in the most fascinating section of this vast republic. Cultivating the soil is a noble employment, under any circumstances; but when by doing so, both wealth and health are the prospective rewards, who that has a desire for a length of days or a love for those who are dearer to him than his own life, can hesitate in making the experiment?

MEDICAL PUBLISHING HOUSES.—For many successive years we have endeavored to impress upon the medical profession, the advantages they derive from the enterprise and energy of American publishers. Every work of reputation on medicine, surgery, and the cognate branches, which appears in Europe, is immediately reproduced in Philadelphia, New York, or Boston, at a much more economical rate for the purchaser, than the same publications invariably cost abroad.

Here then are two arguments in favor of patronizing home publishers, that they may feel encouraged to continue in a course so exceedingly beneficial to the immediate interest of those who are in any way identified with the science, literature and practice of medicine and surgery. Native authors, through the great American publishing houses, have their opinions, their theories, their facts and their names wafted over the globe, which could in no other manner be accomplished with equal facility. These are considerations which are of more consequence than might at first sight be supposed, and have a direct bearing upon our national medical reputation.

Purposing to notice these manufacturing establishments individually, and in their relation to the multiplication of medical books exclusively, we beg to call the attention of readers of *The Medical World* to the firm of Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston of Philadelphia, whose names, in a fair open type, may be found on the title-page of a vast number of the first class of professional works in all the public and private libraries of this country. An examination of their printed catalogue exhibits an immense array of authors, illustrious for their knowledge of the mental, moral, and physical condition of humanity, in both sickness and health.

Possibly they may occasionally err in judgment, or be influenced by others, and bring out something second rate, which soon dies when submitted to the scrutiny of the profession. As a whole, however, since the organization of the house, their publications have borne a very high character. An imprint bearing their cognomen, in a purely medical volume, passes currently in the first circles, as being entitled to good society. May the future success of the house be as satisfactory to Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston, as its past history has been gratifying to the physicians and surgeons of the United States.

MEDICAL CONTROVERSIES.—These are not as common as formerly, for the reason that they are unprofitable to both parties. A controversy in reference to some theoretical speculation may be considered important by those who are arguing; but for the listener, or those who are expected to read the opinions of writing combatants, there is no entertainment where there is nothing to be gained. Who cares a fig for the opponents of Jenner? Yet they labored in season and out of season to prove by argumentation, the utter futility of the discovery he was trying

to establish. Some minds are so constituted that no new light is wanted. It is far more comforting to sit quietly under the self-satisfied conviction that they know all that is to be known. Progress is unnecessary, because it disturbs the mental tranquillity of those one-idea people, whose science, like their opinions, cannot be touched with impunity.

PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL WORLD.

New Works in Press in England.—Most of the following publications are of special interest to those medical gentlemen who are fond of reading works that enlarge the sphere of knowledge, while they have some connection with their professional studies.

The Chemistry of Food and Diet, with a chapter on the Adulteration of Food. By E. Bonner & J. Scoffern.

Catalogue of the British Phænogamous Plants and Ferns, arranged according to the natural and Linnæan systems.

A New Dictionary of Universal Knowledge; called the English Cyclopædia.

A Manual of Marine Zoology, by Henry Gross.

The Museum of Science and Art, by Dr. Dionysius Lardner.

Pliny's Natural History, translated, and copious notes appended, by Dr. Bastock and H. T. Riley, in six volumes, including what relates to plants and medicine.

Practical Meteorology; A Guide to the Phenomena of the Atmosphere, by Messrs. Low & Scoffern.

In New York.—A Map of Jerusalem and its Environs, by Dr. J. T. Barclay. We can bear testimony to the value of the author's accuracy,—having been in the Holy Land while he was making his researches. Dr. Barclay belongs to Virginia.

Loftus's Researches and Excavations in Babylonia, Suziana and Syria. Illustrated.

Bonar's Travels in the Desert and Palestine. Illustrated.

Goss on Animal Life. Illustrated.

Paleontology — Lectures on Fossil Plants and Animals, by Hugh Miller.

Liebig's Familiar Letters on Chemistry and its relation to Commerce, Physiology, and Agriculture, edited by John Gardner, M. D., Member of the Chemical Society, will soon be on sale.

In France.—The History of the Creation, by Barmeister, has reached its sixth edition; the School of Chemistry, by Stoeckhard, its eighth; the Book of Nature, by Schoedler, its ninth; and the Marvels of the Primitive World, by Zimmermann, (a French translation of which is in course of publication,) its tenth edition. All these are said to be great works—scientific in matter and in method, popular in form and tendency, of which numerous, and for works of science, almost fabulous editions have rapidly succeeded each other within a very few years. Charles Vogt published last year a book, entitled Superstition

and Science, which passed through three new editions in three months.

MARRIAGES.

R. B. Dunham, Esq., to Miss Alice, daughter of Wm. Mottram, M. D., of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dr. L. W. Adgate, of Irisburgh, Vt. to Mrs. A. S. Pitkin, of Colebrook, N. H.

In South Boston, Oct. 9, by Rev. Thomas Dawes, Mr. Joseph Winsor, Jr., to Miss Helen L., daughter of the late Dr. Thomas Phipps, of Quincy.

At Woburn, Mass., Ephraim Cutter, M. D. to Miss R. S. Sullivan.

Edward Mulliken, M. D., of Montpelier, Vt., to Miss M. E. Robbins.

J. E. Bartlett, M. D., of Somerville, Mass., to Miss A. F. Carpenter.

In Boston, H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M. D. to Mrs. K. Gordon.

Rev. C. P. Maples, of Smithtown, Long Island, N. Y., to Miss F. L. Gardner, only daughter of David Gardner, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

DEATHS.

In New York, the wife of Dr. John C. Covel.

At Lockport, N. Y., supposed to have been murdered, Dr. Stang.

In New Haven, Aug. 28th, Prof. William D. Whitney, of Yale College, and Miss Elizabeth W. Baldwin, daughter of Hon. Roger S. Baldwin.

In Edinburgh, Scotland, John Taylor, M. D., 52; in Boston, Eugénias Wilson, 17, son of Dr. E. J. Wilson; at Portsmouth, England, while landing from the Crimea, Alexander Wharton, M. D., Assistant Surgeon, 23; at Brampton, England, James Veitch, M. D., Deputy Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets, 86; Prof. Porter, of the anatomical chair in the University of Nashville, Tenn., from a wound received while dissecting; Dr. Rapalge, fleet surgeon of the Havre Squadron, died suddenly, on Thursday, on board the frigate Wabash, in New York harbor; at Terre Haute, Indiana, Dr. W. Foxworthy; at Dedham, Mass., Mrs. Hopstill, wife of Dr. Jeremy Stimpson; at New Haven, Conn., Mrs. Mary P., widow of the late B. W. Halsey, M. D.; at New Utrecht, N. Y., of yellow fever, Dr. John L. Crane. His partner, Dr. Dubois, died of the same disease on the previous Saturday. Both contracted illness by attending upon the sick of the surrounding country; at Henniker, N. H., Dr. Jacob Straw, a prominent man of the place. He was found dead in his office. He had reached the venerable age of 75.

At Holly Springs, Miss., Dr. Joseph O. Walker, 42.

Tilton C. Hall, son of Dr. Robert Hall, of Lowell, Mass., visiting his relatives in Concord, N. H., went to the former residence of his father, at Birch Dale, and prepared to go into the woods on a hunting excursion. He had loaded his gun, when, by accident, it was dis-

charged, wounding him in the side, of which he subsequently died.

At Whately, Mass., Mrs. Lucinda, wife of the late Dr. Francis Harwood.

At Abington, Mass., Ezekiel Thaxter, M. D., 60.

At Brighton, Mass., William Rogers, son of Dr. Augustus Rogers.

The National Intelligencer had the marriage on the 27th instant of Dr. W. A. Williams to Miss Susanna J. Williams, of Washington, and among the obituary notices of the same edition, the death of Mrs. Susanna J. Williams, on the 29th instant, wife of Dr. W. A. Williams. From the bridal to the bier in two short days.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 11.

James Cosgrove 4 days, Thomas Leary 1 mo, Jeremiah Cadigan 7 mos, Joseph Long 8 do, James Healy 11 do, Florilla M. Smith 12 do, John B. Frost 10 do, Mary A. Sheehan 4 do, Francis Miller 13 do, Charles R. Doherty 4 do, Taylor W. Ramsell 18 do, Mary J. Chellis 20 yrs, Bridget Kelly 32 do, James Sullivan 3 do, Amanda H. Goddard 2 do, David Murphy 36 do, Isaac Perhr 67 do, Andrew Barrett 45 do, Pamela Bates 77 do, Michael Connors 44 do, Almira Trott 47 do, Ann McNamara 5 do, Mary Cuff 40 do, Joseph Saccoa 30 do, Lucy Robbins 21 do, Anastasia Mahoney 21 do, Isabella Mathewson 31 do, Charles H. Blake, Jr. 3 do, Lucy Lawrence 82 do, Emily Cunningham 21 do, Edward White 2 do, Herbert S. Carter 14 mos, Alfred G. Taylor 10 do, Susan A. Jenkins 20 do, Timothy Flynn 6 do, Lilla E. Newton 12 do, Mary J. E. Lockwood 1mo, Lydia M. Sanborn 58 yrs, Andrew E. Hammond 3 mos, Elbert Jennings 1 day, Ambrose Clarke 1 mo, Henry J. Lovejoy 11 mos, Thomas P. Craige 20 do, William Winn 40 yrs, Eliphalet P. Hartshorn 74 do, Wm Ryan 33 do, Everett Cobb 3 do, Mary B. Paige 50 do, Mary A. Cronan 4 do, Maria Chappell 25 do, Charles E. Ewings 2 do, Mrs.— Barr 30 do, John H. Greenan 3 do, Geo T. H. Hooper 3 do, John Ryan 50 do, Mary Dowd 26 do, Ellen Dorgan 63 do, Mary L. Hall 43 do, Mary Devoy 82 do, John Craig 12 mos, Charles F. Collins 12 do, John Coffee 3 do, Cora A. Tisdale 3 do, Ellen Garrety 1 mo, Henry A. Safford 1 do, Rosanna Crowley 10 days, John McNaughton 75 yrs, Ellen Leary 7 do, James White 22 do, John Doherty 2 do, Catharine Cotter 32 do, Emily C. Swan 63 do, Eliza T. Warren 58 do, Eleazer J. Hewes 52 do, Sarah Kelly 3 do, Patrick Crotty 23 do, Esther Ann Craig 20 do, Lucy Chandler 46 do, George L. Williams 17 do, Mary Devine 28 yrs, John D. Bishop 33 do, Mary E. Brown 2 do, Philander Metcalf 53 do, Mary Beatty 31 do, Emily F. Carroll 2 do, James Regan 32 do, Wm. Ward 16 mos, Charles W. Turell 18 do, Elizabeth Sarsfield 3 do, child of Christian and Christiana Krell 1 day, Wm. B. Healett 6 yrs, Catharine Kaulback 5 do.

DISEASES—Accidents 3, inflammation of brain 4, consumption 19, croup 4, cholera infantum 4, dysentery 6, debility 2, dropsy 2, do in head 4, infantile diseases 4, unknown do 6, typhoid fever 2, scarlet do 4, whooping cough 3, disease of heart 2, inflammation of lungs 4, palsy 2, teething 4, thrush 2, other diseases 1 each, 12; males 49, females 44: total 93. 68 were born in U. S., Ireland 18, British Provinces 3, other foreign places 4.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

OCTOBER 29, 1856.

NUMBER 5.

HEREDITARY INFLUENCE, ANIMAL AND HUMAN.

1. *Traité de l'Hérédité Naturelle dans les Etats de Santé et de Maladie du Système Nerveux.* Par le Dr. Prosper Lucas. 2 vols. 8vo. Paris. 1847-1850.
2. *On the Physiology of Breeding. Two Lectures delivered to the Newcastle Farmers' Club.* By Reginald Orton, M.R.C.S. Sunderland. 1855.
3. *De la Génération.* Par M. C. Girou de Buzareingues. Paris. 1828.

The problem of hereditary transmission, physical and moral, although one of the most interesting of physiological problems, is also one of the most baffling. In spite of its obscurity, it fascinates the inquirer; perhaps with all the greater force because of its obscurity, for, as Spinoza truly says, men cease to admire that which they fancy they understand; *tum enim vulgus rem aliquam se satis intelligere existimat quum ipsam non admiratur*. The question of hereditary influence has descended from antiquity encumbered with prejudices and deceptive facts, which seemed coercive and conclusive, but were in truth, only one-sided; and encumbered still more with hypotheses formed in ignorance of Nature's processes. It has reached us a problem still; every scientific mind not prepossessed by an hypothesis, nor content to disregard a mass of facts, must pronounce the answers hitherto proposed, deficient in the primary requisite of comprehending all the phenomena. Nevertheless, answers abound. Every cattle-breeder, who rises to the height of a theory, has his theory on this complex matter, and acts upon it in the breeding of cattle and poultry. Every village gossip, every Mrs. Gamp, has her facts and her opinions, which, in expansive moments, she delivers with great confidence. Every physician has his theory, especially with reference to the transmission of disease. Even the man of letters is not without his generalization on the transmission of genius: "all men of genius," he tells you, "have had remarkable mothers;" in support of which generalization he counts off upon his fingers the illustrations which oc-

cur to him, perfectly heedless of the mass of cases in which the mothers have not been remarkable.

The various theories imply variety of interest in the question, and a practical need for the solution. A subject at once so interesting and important may well claim some attention from us here; and we shall endeavor to disengage it from all technical difficulties, so as to present it in a form intelligible to the general reader, and to clear up many misconceptions, popular and scientific, which at present obstruct the question. The three works placed at the head of this paper, with many others less directly bearing on the subject, will supply us with abundant facts, and may be recommended to readers desirous of pursuing the inquiry. Dr. Lucas has in two bulky octavos gathered from far and wide a mass of material, good, bad, and indifferent, with laudable diligence, but with a want of discrimination not so laudable. He is erudite, but he has *les défauts de sa qualité*. His erudition is utterly uncritical; and yet it is obvious that the sole value of the cases collected depends on their authenticity. It is the common error of erudite men to imagine that quantity supplies the place of quality. They fancy themselves rich when their purses are filled with forged notes; and, so long as these notes are kept from presentation at the Bank, their delusion is untroubled. Dr. Lucas has far too many of these notes in his purse: the reader must take up his volumes with great caution. Mr. Orton makes no such erudite display; but he has collected some curious facts, both from his own experience and from the experience of other breeders. M. Girou is one of the authorities most frequently referred to by writers on this topic. To vast practical experience in cattle-breeding he adds very considerable physiological knowledge and force of intellect.

Heritage (*l'hérédité*), or the transmission of physical and mental qualities from parents to

offspring, is one of those general facts of Nature which lie patent to universal observation. Children resemble their parents. Were this law not constant, there could be no constancy of species: the horse might engender an elephant, the squirrel might be the progeny of a lioness, the tadpole of a tapir. The law, however, is constant. During thousands of years the offspring has continued to exhibit the structure, the instincts, and all the characteristics of the parents. Every day some one exclaims — as if the fact surprised him — “That boy is the very image of his father!” yet no one exclaims, “How like that pug dog is to its parent!” Boys or pug dogs, all children, resemble their parents. We do not allude to the fact out of any abstract predilection for truisms, but simply to marshal into due prominence an important truth, on which the whole discussion of heritage must rest. The truth is this: Constancy in the transmission of structure and character from parent to offspring, is a law of Nature.

That this truth is not a truism we shall show by at once contradicting, or at least qualifying it. The very same experience which guarantees the constancy, also teaches, and with almost equal emphasis, that this constancy is not absolute. Variations occur. Children sometimes do *not* resemble their parents; which accounts for the exclamation of surprise when they do resemble them. Nay, the children are sometimes not only unlike their parents, they are, in important characteristics, unlike their Species. We then call them Deformities or Monsters, because, while their Species is distinguished by having four legs, they themselves have six or none; while their Species possesses a complex brain, they are brainless, or have imperfect brains; while their Species is known by its cloven hoofs, they have solid hoofs, and so on.* Dissemblances as great are observable in moral characteristics. We see animals of ordinary aptitudes engender offspring sometimes remarkable for their fine qualities, and sometimes for their imbecility. The savage wolf brings forth occasionally a docile, amiable cub; the man of genius owns a blockhead for his son. In the same family we observe striking differences in stature, aspect, and disposition. Brothers brought up together in the same nursery, and under the same tutor, will differ as much from each other as they differ

from the first person they meet. From Cain and Abel down to the brothers Bonaparte, the striking opposition of characters in families has been a theme for rhetoric. Nor is this all. In cases where the consanguinity may be said to be so much nearer than that of ordinary brotherhood, namely, in twins, we see the same diversity; and this diversity is exhibited in those rare cases where the twins have *only one body between them*. The celebrated twins, Rita and Christina* were so *fused* together, that they had only two legs between them; two legs and four arms and two heads; yet they were quite different in disposition. The same difference was manifested in the celebrated Presburg twins, and in the African twins recently exhibited in London.

It is clear then that offspring do not always closely resemble parents; and it is further clear, from the diversities in families, that they do not resemble them in equal degrees. Two brothers may be very unlike each other, and yet both like their parents; but the resemblance to the parents must, in this case, be variable. So that when we lay down the rule of *constancy in transmission*, we must put a rider on it, to the effect that this Constancy is not absolute, but is accompanied by a law of Variation. It is the intervention of this law which makes hereditary influence a problem; without it, heritage would be as absolute as the union of acids with bases.

Some philosophers have tried to explain the law of constancy in transmission, and its independence of the law of variations, by maintaining that it is the Species only, not the Individual which is reproduced. Thus a sheep is always and everywhere a sheep, a man a man, reproducing the *specific type*, but not necessarily reproducing any individual peculiarities. All sheep resemble each other, and all men resemble each other, because they all belong to specific types. What does the reader say to this hypothesis? Burdach, who adopts it,† adduces his facts: for example, a dog from whom the spleen was extirpated reproduced dogs with perfect spleens; an otter, deprived of its fore paws, produced six young with their legs quite perfect; in a word, “*l'idée de l'espèce se reproduit dans le fruit et lui donne des organes qui manquaient au père ou à la mère.*” The hypothesis has seemed convincing to the majority of thinkers, but it labors under one fatal

* “Flachsland rapporte que deux époux bien constitués mirent au monde trois enfans sans avant-bras ni jambes; d'autres dont parle Schmucker n'eurent que des enfans munis de douze orteils et douze doigts.” — Burdach *Traité de Physiologie*, ii. 264.

* See Geoffroy St. Hilaire, “*Philosophie Anatomique*,” vol. ii.; and Serres, “*Recherches d'Anatomie Transcendante.*”

† “*Physiologie*” ii. 245.

objection — namely, Species cannot reproduce itself, for Species does not exist. It is an entity, an abstract idea, not a concrete fact. It is a fiction of the understanding, not an object existing in Nature. The *thing* Species no more exists than the thing Goodness or the thing Whiteness. Nature only knows individuals. A collection of individuals so closely resembling each other as all sheep resemble each other, are conveniently classed under one general term, named species; but this general term has no objective existence; the abstract or typical sheep, apart from all concrete individuals, has no existence out of our systems. Whenever an individual sheep is born, it is the offspring of two individual sheep, whose structures and dispositions it reproduces; it is not the offspring of an abstract idea; it does not come into being at the bidding of a Type, which as a Species sits apart, regulating ovine phenomena. The facts of dissemblance between offspring and parents we shall explain by-and-by; they do not plead in favor of Species, because Species is a figment of philosophy, not a fact. The sooner we disengage our Zoology from all such lingering remains of old Metaphysics, the better. Nothing but dreary confusion, and word-splitting can come of our admitting them. Think of the hot and unwise controversies respecting “transmutation of species,” which would have been spared if a clear conception of the meaning of Species had been steadily held before the disputants, or if the laws which regulate heritage had been duly considered. In one sense, transmutation of Species is a contradiction in terms. To ask if one species can produce another, *i.e.*, a cat produce a monkey—is to ask if the offspring do not inherit the organization of their parents. We know they do. We cannot conceive it otherwise. But the laws of heritage place the dispute in something of a clearer light, for they teach us that “Species” is constant, because individuals reproduce individuals closely resembling them, which is the meaning of “Species;” and they also teach us, that individuals reproduce individuals *varying* in structure from themselves, which Varieties, becoming transmitted as part and parcel of the parental influence, will, in time, become so great as to constitute a difference in Species. It is in vain that the upholders of “fixity of Species” assert, that all the varieties observed are differences of *degree* only. Differences of degree become differences of kind, when the gap is widened; ice and steam are only differences of degree, but they are equivalent to differences of kind. If, therefore, “transmuta-

tion of Species” is absurd, “fixity of Species” is not a whit less so. That which does not exist, can neither be transmuted or maintained in fixity. Only individuals exist; they resemble their parents, and they differ from their parents. Out of these resemblances we create Species, out of these differences we create Varieties; we do so as conveniences of classification, and then believe in the reality of our own figments.

“Les espèces,” said Buffon, boldly, “sont les seuls êtres de la nature,” and thousands have firmly believed this absurdity. The very latest work published on this subject* reproduces the dictum, and elaborately endeavors to demonstrate it. “Les espèces sont les formes primitives de la nature. Les individus n’en sont que des représentations, des copies.” This was very well for Plato; but for a biologist of the nineteenth century to hold such language shows a want of philosophic culture. A cursory survey of the facts should have shown the error of the conception, if nothing else would. Facts plainly tell us that the individual and the individual’s peculiarities, not those of the abstract Type, are transmitted. Plutarch speaks of a family in Thebes, every member of which was born with the mark of a spear-head on his body; and although Plutarch is not a good authority for such a fact, we may accept this because it belongs to a class of well authenticated cases. An Italian family had the same sort of mark, and hence bore the name of *Lansada*. Haller cites the case of the Bentivoglie family, in whom a slight external tumor was transmitted from father to son, which always swelled when the atmosphere was moist. Again, the Roman families *Nasones* and *Buccones*, indicate analogous peculiarities; to which may be added the well-known “Austrian lip” and “Bourbon nose.” All the Barons de Vessins were said to have a peculiar mark between their shoulders; and by means of such a mark, La Tour Landry discovered the posthumous legitimate son of the Baron de Vessins in a London shoemaker’s apprentice. Such cases might be received with an incredulous smile if they did not belong to a series of indisputable facts noticed in the breeding of animals. Every breeder knows that the colors of the parents are inherited, that the spots are repeated, such as the patch over the bull-terrier’s eye, and the white legs of a horse or cow; and Chambon† lays it down, as a principle derived from experience, that by choosing the parents

*“Cours de Physiologie Comparee,” par M. Flourens. 1856. A feeble and inaccurate book.

†“Traite de l’Education des Moutons,” i. 116.

you can produce *any* spots you please. Girou noticed that his Swiss cow, white, spotted with red, gave five calves, four of which repeated exactly the spots of their mother, the fifth, a cow-calf resembling the bull. And do we not all know how successful our cattle-breeders have been in directing the fat to those parts of the organism where gourmandise desires it? Have not sheep become moving cylinders of fat and wool, merely because fat and wool were needed?

Still more striking are the facts of *accidents* becoming hereditary. A superb stallion, son of *Le Glorieux*, who came from the Pompadour stables, became blind from disease: all his children became blind before they were three years old. Burdach cites the case of a woman who nearly died from hæmorrhage after blood-letting; her daughter was so sensitive that a violent hæmorrhage would follow even a trifling scratch; she, in turn, transmitted this peculiarity to her son. Horses marked during successive generations with red-hot iron in the same place, transmit the visible traces of such marks to their colts. A dog had her hinder parts paralyzed for several days by a blow; six of her seven pups were deformed or excessively weak in their hinder parts, and were drowned as useless.* Treviranus† cites Blumenbach's case of a man whose little finger was crushed and twisted, by an accident to his right hand: his sons inherited right hands with the little finger distorted. These cases are the more surprising, because our daily experience also tells us that accidental defects are *not* transmitted; for many years it has been the custom to cut the ears and tails of terriers, and yet terrier pups do not inherit the pointed ears and short tails of their parents; for centuries men have lost arms and legs, without affecting the limbs of our species. Although, therefore, the deformities and defects of the parent may be inherited, in general they are not. For our present argument it is enough that they are so *sometimes*.

Idiosyncrasies assuredly belong to the individual, not to the species; otherwise they would not be idiosyncrasies. Parents with an unconquerable aversion to animal food, have transmitted that aversion; and parents with the horrible propensity for human flesh, have transmitted the propensity to children brought up away from them under all social restraints. Zimmermann cites the case of a whole family upon whom coffee acted like opium, while opium

had no sensible effect whatever on them; and Dr. Lucas knows a family upon whom the slightest dose of calomel produces violent nervous tremblings. Every physician knows how both predisposition to and absolute protection against certain specific diseases are transmitted. In many families the teeth and hair fall out before the ordinary time, no matter what hygiène be followed. Sir Henry Holland remarks, "The frequency of blindness as a hereditary affection is well-known, whether occurring from cataract or other diseases of the parts concerned in vision. The most remarkable of the many examples known to me, is that of a family where four out of five children, otherwise healthy, became totally blind from amaurosis about the age of twelve; the vision having been gradually impaired up to this time. What adds to the singularity of this case is the existence of some family monument long prior in date, where a female ancestor is represented with several children around her, the inscription recording that all the number were blind."* But not only are structural peculiarities transmitted, we see even queer tricks of manner descending to the children. The writer had a puppy, taken from its mother at six weeks old, who although never taught "to beg" (an accomplishment his mother had been taught), spontaneously took to begging for everything he wanted, when about seven or eight months old: he would beg for food, beg to be let out of the room, and one day was found opposite a rabbit hutch begging for the rabbits. Unless we are to suppose all these cases simple coincidences, we must admit individual heritage; but the doctrine of probabilities will not permit us to suppose them coincident. Let us take the idiosyncrasy of cannibalism, which may be safely said not to appear more than once in ten thousand human beings; if, therefore, we take one in ten thousand as the ratio, the chances against any man manifesting the propensity will be ten thousand to one, but the chances against his son also manifesting it will be — what, some more learned calculator must declare.

Not the Species, but the Individual, then, we are forced to admit, presides over heritage; and this will help to explain many puzzling phenomena. Thus M. Danney made experiments during ten years with rabbits, a hundred couples being selected by him with a view to the creation of peculiarities. By always choosing the parents "d'après des circonstances individuelles fixes et toujours les mêmes dans

* "Girou," p. 127.

† "Biologie," iii. 452.

* "Medical Notes and Reflections," p. 23.

certaines lignées," he succeeded in obtaining a number of malformations according to his preconceived plan. And such experiments have been repeated on dogs, pigeons, and poultry with like success. It is on this fact of individual heritage that longevity depends. There is no term of life for the "species," only a term for the individual; a fact which sets all the speculations of Cornaro, Hufeland, and Flourens at naught. There are limits which neither the "species" nor the individual can be said to pass; no man has been known to live two hundred years; but the number of years which each individual will reach, without accident, is a term depending neither on the "species," nor on his own mode of life, but on the organization inherited from his parents. Temperance, sobriety, and chastity, however desirable, both in themselves and in their effects, will not insure long life; intemperance, hardship, and irregularity will not prevent a man living for a century and a half. The facts are there to prove both propositions. Longevity is an inheritance. Like talent, it may be cultivated; like talent, it may be perverted; but it exists independent of all cultivation, and no cultivation will create it. Some men have a talent for long life.

M. Charles Lejoncourt published, in 1842, his *Galerie des Centenaires*, in which may be read a curious list of examples proving the hereditary nature of longevity. In one page we have a day laborer dying at the age of 108, his father lived to 104, his grandfather to 108, and his daughter then living had reached 80. In another we have a saddler whose grandfather died at 112, his father at 113, and he himself at 115; this man, aged 113, was asked by Louis XIV. what he had done to so prolong life; his answer was—"Sire, since I was fifty I have acted upon two principles; I have shut my heart and opened my wine cellar." M. Lejoncourt also mentions a woman then living, aged 150, whose father died at 124, and whose uncle at 113. But the most surprising of the cases cited by Lucas, is that of Jean Golembiewski, a Pole, who in 1846 was still living, aged 102, having been eighty years as a common soldier, in thirty-five campaigns under Napoleon, and having even survived the terrible Russian campaign, in spite of five wounds, and a soldier's recklessness of life. His father died aged 121, and his grandfather, 130. Indeed, the practice of every annuity and insurance office suffices to convince us of ordinary experience having discovered that length of life is somehow dependent on hereditary influence.

Although instincts, in the general acceptance of the term, may be said to belong to the species and to be transmitted with the specific type, we have abundant evidence of the individual transmission of what are called instinctive peculiarities, or acquired habits. Thus Girou relates the case of a sporting dog, taken young from its mother and father, who was singularly obstinate, and exhibited the greatest terror at every explosion of the gun, which always excites the ardor of the species. On the owner expressing his surprise to the gentleman from whom he received the dog, he was told that nothing was more likely, for the dog's father had the same peculiarity. How the vicious disposition of horses is transmitted, all breeders know. Again, we know that the vice of drunkenness is very apt to be inherited; and that the passion for gambling is little less so. "A lady with whom I was very intimate," relates Da Gama Machado, "and who possessed great wealth, passed her nights in gaming; she died young from pulmonary disease. Her eldest son was equally addicted to play, and he also died of consumption at the same age as his mother. His daughter inherited the same passion and the same disease."* Other and more crapulous vices are inherited, and are exhibited in cases where the early death of the parents, or the removal of the children in infancy, prevents the idea of any imitation or effect of education being the cause. That the "thieving propensity" is transmitted from father to son through generations, all acquainted with police-courts know. Gall† has cited some striking examples; and that murder, like talent, runs in families, is too notorious to need illustrations here. Dogs taught to "point" or "set," transmit the talent. The American dogs inherit the peculiar cunning necessary to hunt the peccari without danger. F. Cuvier has observed that young foxes, in those parts of the country where traps are set, manifest much more prudence than even the old foxes in districts where they are less persecuted. Again, birds born in a country inhabited by man inherit their alarm at his presence; but travellers narrate that the same species encountered on uninhabited islands manifest no alarm, and are knocked down as easily as a gentleman in Fleet-street; they soon, however, learn to dread man, and this dread they transmit. As these last illustrations may be relegated to the vague region of instincts, we will confine ourselves to more individual and accidental characteristics. Thus Girou relates how a

* "Theorie des Ressemblances," p. 154, quoted by Lucas.

† "Fonctions du Cerveau," i. 207.

man known to him had the habit of sleeping on his back, with his right leg crossed over the left; one of his daughters showed the same peculiarity from her birth, and constantly assumed it in her cradle, in spite of her swathings. Venette knew a woman who limped with the right leg; her daughter was born with the same defect in her right leg. Ambrose Paré noticed that several children who had a peculiar mode of shaking the head, inherited it from their parents.

The inevitable conclusion from all these facts is, that parents transmit their individual peculiarities of color, form, longevity, idiosyncrasy, &c., to their offspring, and that they do this *not as reproducing the species, but as reproducing their own individual organizations.* But now comes the difficult part of our inquiry:—Which is the predominating influence, that of the male or that of the female? If both parents join to form the child, does one parent give one group of organs, and another parent another group; or do both give all?

“Half is his and half is thine; it will be worthy of the two!”

sings the poet; and the physiologist asks,—Which half?

Speaking of mules, Vicq-d'Azyr says, with proper caution, that “it seems as if the exterior and the extremities were modified by the father, and that the viscera emanate from the mother.” The reserve with which the great anatomist expresses himself has not been imitated by his successors; indeed, men are generally averse from uncertainties—they like a decisive opinion, a distinct formula. Hence we have the very popular formula adopted by Mr. Orton in his “Lectures.”—“That the male gives the external configuration, or in other words, the locomotive organs; while the female gives the internal, or in other words, the vital organs;” which is generally stated with more scientific precision thus—“the male gives the animal system, the female the organic or vegetative.” Very great and authoritative names may be cited in support of this view; and as all such formulas are the expressions of numerous facts, we must expect to find their advocates powerful in facts to support them. If there are facts which are equally explicit and diametrically opposed to those used as evidence for the theory, it is clear that the theory expresses only part of the truth. Let us see how the case stands.

Linnæus says that the *internal* plant (*i. e.*, the organs of fructification) in all hybrids is like the female; the *external* (organs of vege-

tation), on the contrary, resembles the male. This is, however, diametrically opposed by De Candolle, who announces it as a general law that the organs of vegetation are given by the female, those of fructification by the male.* When two doctors of such importance differ on a point like this, we may suspect that both are right and both are wrong; and here our suspicion is supported by the mass of facts adduced in the experiments of M. Sagaret,† which refute the hypothesis of Linnæus and the hypothesis of De Candolle. What we have just indicated with regard to plants, has been the course pursued with regard to animals: one class of observations has seemed to prove that the father bestows the “animal system;” another class of observations has seemed to prove that the mother bestows it; and a third class has proved both theories inadequate. Quite recently General Daumas published the result of his long experience with Arab horses,‡ arguing that according to the testimony of the Arabs, the stallion was the most valuable for purposes of breeding. Upon this, the *Inspecteur des Haras*, who had traversed Asia for the express purpose of collecting evidence on the subject, published his diametrically opposite conclusion, declaring that it was the mare whose influence preponderated in the foal. General Daumas replied, and cited a letter addressed to him by Abd-el-Kader, who may certainly be said to understand Arab horses better than Europeans. The letter is worth reading for its own sake; we can, however, only quote its testimony on the particular point now under discussion. “The experience of centuries has established,” he says, “that the essential parts of the organization, such as the bones, the tendons, the nerves, and the veins, are always derived from the stallion. The mare may give the color and some resemblance to her structure, but the principal qualities are due to the stallion.” This is very weighty testimony, on which we will only for the present remark, that it merely asserts the *preponderance* of the male influence as respects the locomotive system; it does not assert that absolute independence of any female influence, maintained in the formula of Prevost and Daumas, Lallemand and others, which we are now combating. Abd-el-Kader’s statement is tantamount to that made by Mr. Orton:

“I do not mean it to be inferred that either

* “*Physiologie Vegetale*,” p. 716.

† “*Pomologie Physiologique*,” p. 555, sq.

‡ “*Les Chevaux de Sahara*,” see also an article in the “*Revue des Deux Mondes*,” May, 1855, on *Le Cheval de Guerre*.

parent gives either set of organs uninfluenced by the other parent; but merely that the leading characteristics and qualities of both sets of qualities due to the male on the one side, and to the female on the other, the parents opposite modifying them only."

This is a more acceptable theory than the other, but it is only an approximation to the truth. Mr. Orton's first illustration is the hybrid of the horse and ass.

"It is known that the produce of the male ass and the mare is a mule; but I do not think it is equally well-known that the produce of the stallion and the female ass is what has been denominated a hinny — yet such is the case.

. . . . The mule, the produce of the ass and mare, is essentially a modified ass — the ears are those of an ass, somewhat shortened — the mane is that of an ass — the tail is that of an ass — the skin and color are those of an ass, somewhat modified — the legs are slender, the hoofs high, narrow, and contracted, like those of an ass. The body and barrel are round and full, in which it differs from the ass and resembles the mare."

This description is accurate, but — we put it interrogatively — is it *always* the description of a mule, and *never* that also of a hinny? This latter, the produce of the stallion and the female ass, "is essentially a modified horse — the ears like those of a horse, somewhat lengthened — the mane flowing — the tail bushy like that of a horse — the skin is fine like that of a horse — the legs are stronger, and the hoofs broad and expanded like those of a horse. The body and barrel are flat and narrow, in which it differs from the horse and resembles its mother the ass." From these facts, Mr. Orton deduces the conclusion, that the offspring of a cross is not simply a mixture of the two parents, nor is it an animal that has accidentally a similitude to one or other of its parents, inasmuch as we can produce at will either the hinny or the mule. The reader will presently see why such a conclusion cannot be accepted; and we may at once anticipate what will hereafter be more fully explained, by saying that the differences Mr. Orton signals are easily interpreted by another theory. In point of fact, both mule and hinny are modified asses; in each the structure and disposition of the ass predominates; and it does so in virtue of that greater "potency of race" which belongs to the ass — a potency which is less effective on the hinny, because the superior vigor of the stallion modifies it, according to ascertained laws.

"I would call your consideration," Mr. Orton continues, "to a very curious circumstance pertaining to the voice of the mule and the hinny; to which my attention was called by Mr. Lort. The mule *brays*, the hinny *neighs*. The why and wherefore of this is a perfect mystery, until we come to apply the knowledge afforded us by the law I have given. The male gives the locomotive organs, and the muscles are among these; the muscles are the organs which modulate the voice of the animal; the mule has the muscular structure of its sire the ass, and brays; the hinny has the muscular structure of its sire the horse, and neighs."

This seems decisive, until we extend our observations, and then we find the law altogether at fault. Thus the produce of a bull and a mare neither *lowed* nor *neighed*, but uttered a shrill cry like that of the goat. The produce of a dog and a she-wolf sometimes bark and sometimes howl, according to Buffon; and the produce of a bitch-fox and a dog, according to Burdach, barked like a dog, though somewhat hoarsely, and howled like a wolf when it was hurt. A similar remark has been made by all who have attended to cross-breeding in birds; the hybrid of the goldfinch and the canary has the song of the goldfinch mingled with occasional notes of the canary, which seem perpetually about to gain the predominance. Finally, we know how, in the human family, a magnificent voice is inherited from a mother as often as from a father.

These illustrations, apart from their interest, teach us to be cautious in generalizing from a few facts, however striking, in questions so complex as all biological questions are. Let us, however, continue to call on Mr. Orton for facts. He quotes a letter from Dr. George Wilson (whose opinion on any subject will be worth hearing) to Dr. Harvey respecting the produce of the Manx cat and the common cat. The Manx cat has no tail, and is particularly long in the hinder legs. "You will see," says Dr. Wilson, "from the facts communicated, that where the Manx cat was the mother, the kittens had tails of a sort; where the Manx cat was the father, three-fourths of the kittens had no tails." Mr. Orton also quotes a communication made to him by Mr. Garnett, of Clitheroe:

"From these I select those pertaining to the Muscovy duck and some hybrids produced between it and the common duck. You are aware that the Muscovy drake exceeds in a striking degree the duck in size; the drake weighing from 8 to 9 1-4 lbs., while the duck

weighs only from 3 to 4 lbs. Hybrids produced from the Muscovy drake and common duck followed this peculiarity of the male parent as to the relative size of the male and female hybrids; the male weighing from 5 to 6 lbs., the females not half as much. On the other hand, the difference in the size of the sexes, when the hybrids were the produce of the common drake and the Muscovy duck, was not apparent."

A valuable observation, certainly. Mr. Orton adds the following of his own. He placed a Cochin cock with his common hens:

"Reasoning that if the vital organs were due to the female, then the cross between these birds (being externally Cochins and internally common hens) should lay white eggs, the secretion of the egg being a vital function. You know that the Cochin lays a chocolate-colored egg. The half-breed did what theory said they should do—laid white eggs; and not only white eggs, but eggs also which, on the evidence of myself and family, were very inferior in taste, having lost the mellow, buttery taste of the Cochin egg."

But he has recorded another curious fact respecting this same experiment, which might have made him aware of the problematical nature of his theory, had not his sagacity been hood-winked by the theory:

"These same half-bred birds afforded another and a very unlooked-for illustration of the position we have taken. They were all, when first hatched, like the Cochin cock, profusely feathered on the legs and feet, so much so, that they had to be marked to distinguish them from the pure bred birds. We see here that, according to the law, the male parent implanted his characteristics; but what was curious, in a few weeks, in some of the half-breeds all, and in many most of the leg feathers were shed. Two out of some twenty birds only retained them in any very conspicuous degree. Now, why was this? The cock had implanted his external characteristics, the hen had given her vital organs. The feathers of the male were there; but the vital organs necessary to their growth were not there; and consequently, after a time, for want of nutriment, these feathers were shed."

We will not here enter on the question of the growth of feathers (a very complex matter), but, accepting his own premises, ask him, if the external characteristics are thus dependent on the vital organs for their growth and development, and these vital organs are given by the female, how does the child ever exhibit the

characteristics of the male after infancy? Of what use is it for the male to implant his characteristics, when the female influence is thus certain to annihilate them?

Mr. Orton further cites the practice of Bakewell with respect to his celebrated Dishley sheep. His rams might be bought or hired, for a good price; but his best ewes were sacred. These he would neither sell nor let.

(To be concluded.)

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

Translated from the German by H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M. D.

INTESTINAL CATARRH OF CHILDREN.

By Dr. Kafka, of Prague.

[From the Pragu Monatschrift für Hom., &c.]

(Concluded.)

B. DISCHARGES WITHOUT PAIN.

Case I. Oct. 6th, 1848. A boy, 3 years old, has had diarrhoea for 2 weeks. The discharge is without pain, occurs 6 or 8 times in 24 hours, is sometimes watery, sometimes mucous, sometimes mucous and bloody, has very little faecal odor, and is preceded by considerable rumbling in the intestines. There is paleness of the face, depression, and weakness of the limbs, which often causes the patient to lie down.

Phosphorus, 2d dilution, 1 drop every 2 hours, given on sugar of milk, effected a cure in 48 hours.

Case II. Sept. 2d, 1853. A girl, 2 years of age, has been in the same condition as the last patient, for 6 days. At the same time there is meteoric distention of the abdomen, as well as thirst and restlessness at night.

Phosphoric acid, 2d dilution, 10 drops in half a glass of water, 1 teaspoon full every 2 hours. Cured in 2 days.

Case III. Aug. 12th, 1854. A girl of 14 months has had for 6 weeks a painless watery diarrhoea, with a putrid odor. The discharges occur 10 to 12 times in 24 hours. The patient is very pale and weak, the face has an oldish expression, the eyes are dim and sunken, there is total want of appetite, the thirst is insatiable, the abdomen is distended, not painful, and gives a tympanitic sound on percussion. The body is emaciated to the highest degree, and the ankles are oedematous.

Arsenic, 6th dilution, 8 drops in 16 tea-

spoons full of water; 1 teaspoon full every 2 hours. In three days there was great improvement, and the patient recovered gradually but entirely in 20 days.

Case IV. Jan. 30th, 1849. A girl 18 months old had the same form of disease, with the difference that the appetite was not wanting, but the food passed off undigested with the discharges.

Cinchona, 2d dilution, given like *phosphoric acid* in *Case II*, caused the disappearance of the lenteria in 3 days. A complete cure was effected in 4 weeks by *cinchona* and *arsenic*, given in alternation.

Case V. March 25th, 1854. A boy of 13 months was attacked by diarrhoea 10 weeks ago, at which time he was weaned. 12 to 15 discharges without pain occur in 24 hours; they are watery, without odor, and of a reddish brown color. There is anæmic pallor of the cutaneous surface, emaciation and great prostration, also œdema of the scrotum and lower limbs.

Arsenic and *Ferrum metallicum* were given without effect. *Ferrum sulph.*, 2d trituration, 1 grain every 4 hours, caused a great diminution in the number of discharges, and the cure was completed in 5 weeks.

Case VI. May 7th, 1851. A girl 6 months old, pale and bloated, and affected with *crusta lactea*, has had diarrhoea for 3 weeks. The discharges are liquid, sometimes like chopped eggs, sometimes green, sometimes of a greyish hue; they have an acid smell, and cause no pain. The evacuations generally occur in the morning between 5 and 10 o'clock. The abdomen is much distended, and the extremities emaciated. The nights are very restless, probably owing to the process of dentition.

Calcarea carb., 3d trituration, 1 grain every 2 hours. Improvement in 4 days, entire cure in 6 weeks.

[After the above article on diarrhoea, a mention of the treatment of some other forms of intestinal affections may prove interesting to the reader, and I therefore present the following cases of dysenteric disease. The remedies used in these cases, *Mercurius Solubilis*, *Corrosive Sublimate* and *Arsenic*, are those which have been found most efficacious in different forms of dysentery, when faithfully applied according to their indications.]

H. L. H. H.

DYSENTERY.

By Dr. M. Teller.

[From the Pragu Monatschrift für Hom., &c.]

The patient, a man about 30 years old, a bleacher by trade, of a venous constitution, had been suffering from dysentery for about 14 days, and had tried various remedies before placing himself under my charge. I was called to him on May 3d, 1855, and found him lying in bed. The warmth of the body was increased, the patient was troubled with oppressive headache, there was want of appetite, thirst, a vapid taste in the mouth, the tongue was moist and had a white coating.

The abdomen was everywhere painful to the touch. The patient could not give a good description of the character of the pain, but said that it was more constant and violent on the right side, in the region of the colon ascendens. A continual tenesmus forced the patient to go to stool about 20 times a day, and each time there was a discharge of a mass of fibrinous, bloody, croupy matter, accompanied by the most violent pain. The urine was of a dark reddish color, the pulse frequent and hard.

I prescribed *Mercurius Solubilis*, $\frac{1}{4}$ grain of the 2d dilution every 2 hours. When I saw the patient again next day, he had taken 8 doses of his remedy. He was in good spirits, and reported that the tenesmus had diminished more and more after each dose, so that the evacuations were now without pain, although there were still 16 discharges in 24 hours. The matter which was discharged consisted of yellow, somewhat thicker flakes of lymph, no longer mixed with blood. The abdominal pain was confined more to the right hypochondrium, the urine was of a dark reddish hue and clouded. Pulse, appetite, &c., as on the preceding day. Prescribed *Pulsatilla*, 3d dilution, 10 drops in 4 ounces of water, one teaspoon full every hour.

On the following day I found the patient sitting up. The diarrhoea and all abdominal pains had ceased, and in the course of 24 hours there were 2 regular fæcal discharges. The thirst had also diminished, the appetite began to return, the tongue, which had been coated, was now reddened at the point. The patient, who had been accustomed to a more violent system of medication, now demanded something more perceptible to his senses, and received as a remedy adapted to his constitution, his past disease, and present condition, *Ammonium Muriaticum*, 2d trituration, a dose

3 times a day. Three days after this my patient visited me, without any vestiges of his late trouble.

A similar case, but one not so promptly relieved, was that of a delicate, slightly built boy, 5 years old, who had formerly suffered much from scrofulous ophthalmia, and whom I had also attended during a scarlet fever, with subsequent Hydrops Breghtii, which took a favorable course under the use of *Aconite*, *Bel-ladonna*, *Helleborus* and *Arsenic*.

I was called to this patient on Dec. 13th, 1854. His features expressed great suffering, and the pain extended over the whole abdomen to such a degree that the slightest touch was insupportable. Of equal violence was the continual tenesmus which forced the little patient to go to stool incessantly. He discharged each time a very small quantity of slimy or croupy matter, which often contained epithelial cells, and was always mixed with streaks or spots of blood. The general condition of the patient indicated a violent inflammation. A decoction of arrow-root, taken cold, was used to quench the violent thirst, and frequently during the day the patient was allowed to take a cup of barley-broth.

Relying on my experience in other cases, I administered to the patient a dose of *Mercurius Solub.*, every 2 hours. At the same time I ordered the abdomen to be kept warm, and a tepid bath to be taken daily. The use of this remedy for 2 days did not have the desired effect. The abdominal pain, tenesmus and discharges remained the same, and the poor suffering patient presented a melancholy spectacle.

I now substituted *Corrosive Sublimate* for the *Merc. Solub.*, dissolving 1 grain of the first trituration, (decimal scale,) in 4 ounces of water, and giving a teaspoon full every hour. Under the use of this remedy there was soon great improvement. First, the pain in the abdomen decreased so that pressure could be borne, then the tenesmus ceased, and gradually the discharges became less frequent, changing first to a greenish, and then to a yellowish flocculent mass, plentifully mixed with epithelial cells.

After a 3 days' use of the *Corr. Subl.*, during which time the mixture was prepared twice, there ensued a cessation of all the inflammatory symptoms, followed by constipation. This trouble was removed by the use of *Tinct. Sulphuris* and *Nux Vomica*, and in 5 days more the patient was well enough to leave his bed.

ULCERATION OF THE INTESTINES CURED BY ARSENIC.

By Dr. Wm. Arnold, of Heidelberg.

[From the Zeitschrift für Homœopathische Klinik.]

A vigorous boy, 10 years of age, had suffered from diarrhoea for 14 days. The disease, which commenced with great violence, gradually changed its character. The tenesmus, which had at first been very troublesome, gradually disappeared. The discharges, at first slimy, and tinged with blood, now consisted occasionally of fluid fæces, but more often of a purulent liquid, generally colored by fæcal matter, and sometimes of pure pus. Small membranous fragments were observed in the fluid discharges. Blood was almost always present, sometimes mixed with the excreta, sometimes collected in different parts of the pus, or the fæcal, purulent matter. The blood was sometimes fluid, sometimes coagulated to a greater or less degree. These red bloody spots remained quite distinct in the discharges for many hours, while the purulent matter was mixed more rapidly with the fæcal, reddish-green excretions, and was often discharged already mixed. The discharges had an oppressively sweetish, putrid odor, very different from that of natural fæces. The evacuations were more frequent at night than during the day, occurring sometimes 10 or 15 times in the course of a night. A short time before their appearance they were announced by a rumbling, and a very painful feeling of contraction, particularly in the hypogastric region. The discharges were not accompanied by pain, the tenesmus had disappeared within a few days, and the patient complained only of a burning at the anus and its neighborhood.

On close examination I found the abdomen distended and sensitive, especially at the sides, where a distinct rumbling was often perceptible.

The patient, who was formerly a stout, strong and lively boy, was now very much reduced. Weakness and emaciation had reached a high degree; the skin looked withered and dry, and had a dirty sallow hue; the surface was cool, and often quite cold, and sometimes there was transient heat of the head and hands. The boy lay on his back, quiet and stupid, and only answered questions when they were repeated in a loud tone of voice. Occasionally he started up suddenly from this apathetic state, sobbed, and asked to go to stool, when a discharge of the above named consistence would give him some relief. Sometimes, rousing from his stupid state, he threw

himself over and lay on his stomach, until he was disturbed by the occurrence of another discharge. Sometimes the evacuations took place unconsciously, but their approach was generally announced by pain. Although the patient would start up hastily, and make known his wants in an impetuous manner, still he could not maintain a sitting posture without assistance, and even with proper support he sometimes had attacks of fainting. He was therefore directed to maintain a horizontal position during his discharges. The pulse was quick, frequent, and often so small as to be almost imperceptible. A very alarming symptom, the hiccup, had supervened about 24 hours ago, increasing rapidly in violence and duration, and giving the patient much discomfort. Under these circumstances, the strength failed rapidly, especially as a total want of appetite prevented the patient from taking any food. Even milk and water, and mucilaginous decoctions, with chicken, and veal-broth, were repulsive to him, and he only took occasionally a swallow of water, in which some gum arabic had been dissolved.

Under these circumstances I could not long hesitate in deciding that *Arsenic* was the remedy indicated, not only by the local changes, but also by the general condition of the patient.

Among the changes observed in the bodies of those poisoned by *Arsenic*, especially in cases of chronic poisoning, the following conditions are particularly deserving of attention: softening and separation of the mucous membrane; erosion and ulceration in different regions, especially in the stomach and small intestine, but also in the colon and rectum; congestion and effusion of blood in the intestinal canal, and collections of blood, mucus, and purulent matter at different points. Beside these anatomical changes, the general symptoms which occur after the use of *arsenic* in the living subject, are similar to the symptoms observed in our case. The most important are: discharges of fecal, bloody fluid, having a putrid odor; discharge of greenish and reddish colored feces, of sometimes liquid, sometimes thickened mucus, of membranous shreds, which have been taken for portions of the mucous membrane, of fluid resembling pus, of blood, sometimes mixed with the other fluids, sometimes still quite distinct in separate spots, and either liquid or coagulated. Among the other symptoms caused by *Arsenic*, which are noticeable as appearing also in our case are: rumbling in the intestines; various pains, and a feeling of contraction in the whole abdomen,

which is most marked in the hypogastric region; burning at the anus and its neighborhood; remarkable failing of the strength, complete emaciation, dry, parchment-like, cold, livid skin, with a dirty, earthy discoloration; feverish shivering of the whole body, with hot forehead, warm face and cold hands. Immoveable decubitus, great sluggishness and aversion to move; anxiety, which does not allow the patient to remain long in one attitude; painful weakness and faintness; quick, weak, small and contracted pulse; singultus, emaciation of the face, dry tongue; troublesome dryness of the cavity of the mouth; violent thirst, with ingestion of but little fluid at a time; entire want of appetite.

According to the law of similarity, all these appearances pointed to the use of *Arsenic*; but what made this indication quite certain and reliable was the fact that there was no doubt of the existence of ulceration of the intestines, judging from the origin and course of the disease, and its present state, and the fact that similar intestinal ulceration was caused by *arsenic*. In *arsenic* therefore we have a local specific or organic remedy for these ulcers, and also a specific for the totality of the symptoms manifested in this disease. In saying this, it is perhaps scarcely necessary to state that I by no means recommend the use of *Arsenic* in *all cases* of intestinal ulceration. Such a course would lead us back to the old system of routine, and such a system is equally bad, whether the routinist belongs to the Homœopathic or Allopathic school.

Having diagnosed ulceration of the intestines, having noticed the oppressive singultus, which, from its frequency and violence became an important symptom, having in fact obtained a complete picture of this disease, as signaled by the above-mentioned symptoms, I could no longer hesitate in the choice of the remedy. Considering the failing powers of the patient, it was also easy to choose the necessary strength of the dose, since any violent measures would here have been inadmissible.

I mixed 1 grain of the 6th decimal trituration of *Arsenic* with sugar of milk, and divided it into 5 doses, which were to be taken in the course of 24 hours. In half an hour after the first dose the singultus had increased very much, and the patient appeared to be in such a state of prostration as to cause the most serious apprehensions. But this aggravation scarcely lasted an hour, was scarcely noticeable after the 2d dose, and was imperceptible after the 3d. After using the 5 doses in 24 hours,

there was a visible improvement, which was manifested by a diminution of the hyccup, greater quiet of the patient, improvement of the facial expression, and a diminution of the number of the discharges, the character of which was however unaltered. On the second day the patient received the same prescription, and his condition remained the same. On the third and fourth days, 2 grains of the 6th decimal trituration of *Arsenic* were administered during 24 hours, followed by evident amelioration. This was manifested by the increasing strength, better appearance and greater quiet of the patient, and also by the diminished frequency and improved character of the discharges. They were still liquid, but of a more faecal consistence, and the blood, mucus and pus were not so easily detected, and less abundant. The patient could now take some nourishment, preferring meat broths, with some mucilage, and the yolk of eggs, which he demanded frequently.

From the 5th to the 8th day I administered a stronger dose of the *Arsenic*. 1 grain of the 4th trituration twice a day, which increased dose was easily borne.

On the 8th day the patient's condition had so much improved that he could raise himself in bed without help, that his appearance was much more natural, and his appetite gradually increasing. The discharges resumed their natural faecal appearance, very rarely showing a small collection of blood or mucus in isolated spots. Under these circumstances, a daily dose of 1 grain of the 4th trituration of *Arsenic* was prescribed for 6 days more, after which this remedy was discontinued, there being no longer any symptom of intestinal ulceration.

After the disappearance of all the symptoms of his disease, the patient still complained of great weakness, and was unable to undertake any movements of his body that required a considerable exertion. To combat these effects of the excessive discharges and the loss of blood, I prescribed *Cinchona*, twice a day, first 5, and then 10 drops of the 2d decimal dilution.

Under the use of this remedy, as well as a good, digestible and nourishing diet, the patient's strength increased so rapidly that 6 days after commencing the *Cinchona*, and 20 days after commencing the *Arsenic*, he was discharged as entirely well and allowed to leave his room. At present, after the lapse of half a year, no trace of intestinal disease can be discovered, and the patient has regained his full strength and animation.

Communicated for the Medical World.

LIQUOR ZINCI CHLORIDI

Can be prepared in the manner recommended in the "Dispensatory of Waoood & Bache," or by immersing a roll of sheet zinc in hydrochloric acid unto saturation, and passing the liquor through a cotton strainer.

In either instance it is a useful and valuable material in the practice of medicine and surgery. It consists of a moiety of chloride of zinc and one of water.

Its most recognized use is for disinfecting purposes, for which one fluid ounce may be mixed with a quart of water. It is then fit for adding to slops, dejections, &c., in the nursing chamber; or for wetting towels to be hung to dry in rooms, or wards, where fever, dysentery, and other causes of infection prevail. More largely it may be employed to purify water-closets, privies, sesspools, and other polluted and polluting departments.

I invite attention to it, next, as a topical antiseptic, for surgical use in the treatment of ulcers, fistulas, blennorrhoeas, ophthalmias, ozenas, and eruptions, as erysipelas, porrigo, ichthyosis, &c. Here the strength may be varied according to the properties of the case, from drachm ft., to ounce fl., to the lb. of water, or spirit and water, for it is conveniently soluble in either. In relation to the forenamed disorders, it will assume the form of an ointment, a lotion, collyrium, stupe, (fomentation) or injection pro re nata. And there are very few of them in which it has been customary to use such applications composed of sulphate of zinc, or acetate of lead, in which it will not be found to answer the intention better than either. In erysipelas, herpes, and some other of the formidable skin diseases, it is necessary sometimes to employ it pure (undiluted) for the purpose of limiting and neutralizing the *morbus* in question. In such instances it represents and replaces the nitrate of silver compound, to which I prefer it, as not blackening the part, as not rendering it so dry and callous, as being more antiseptic, and much cheaper.

In ophthalmias, excoriations, and for ablu-tion or injection in hæmorrhoids, eruthritis, and fluor albus in its various kinds, inclusive of those in which the uterus is involved. I have found it best to commence with the weakest form drachm ad. lb., but have frequently been encouraged to augment it to twice, or to four times this strength. In either instance, so far as this branch of the treatment is concerned, immediate improvement, and a rapidly progressive cure may be expected.

And here, in respect to the latter disorder especially, I would remark, that I have found it, and would wish to have it appreciated as a great boon to the sex for which our solicitude is so constantly engaged. For it is known to all the profession how extensively it suffers and depreciates, both locally and generally, in sensation and function, by this vice in the system; and that no age is exempt; very young girls and aged women, besides those in maternal and active life, are enervated and subjugated hereby. Now in this remedy we have just what we would ask; a remedy cleanly, convenient, effectual; one that can with safety be committed to the keeping and use of the patient, and which commends itself to her approval by having neither color, nor odor, nor propensity to crystallize, or prove offensive or inconvenient in any respect. Whilst it is active in its highest dilutions, its strength may be conveniently augmented to any required degree. I generally commence by ordering to each teaspoonful of the "liquor," a pint of water; and as the cure advances, and the mucous tissue becomes better toned, two, three, or four teaspoonsful, beyond which I rarely find it necessary to proceed. I usually direct of such dilutions, four or six ounces to be injected twice every morning, or every night and morning.

In regard to its adaptations to internal medicine, I would speak from experience; first, of its use as a collutery and gargarism, in which forms I have found it of great service in the thrush of infancy, and that of the puerperal and lactescent states. It is well known how obstinate and pernicious this latter disorder frequently becomes — how troublesome and alarming it is at all times. In this we have a remedy which seldom fails, whether of relieving or curing the patient. Theory would suggest that it would prove highly useful in mercurial ptyalism, and in cancrum oris; of this I cannot speak from experience. In the many varieties of cynanche, the dilution alone, or mixed with acetum, will effect the valuable intentions of deterging the surface, contracting the solids, improving the secretions, and incrusting the ulcers, if there are any.

Second, as an emetic. For this purpose it will rank highly, being very prompt, as well as thorough, acting in a small dose, and improving rather than injuring the stomach. Five drops every five minutes may, diluted with water, be given almost indiscriminately to young or old, until the dose that operates is taken; varying from two to seven. I have given it in this way to patients in the last stage, and almost the last

hours, of consumption, for the intentions of extricating the tenacious phlegm, and improving the spaces and the powers of the respiratory organs; and have received their impartial testimony that they were much relieved. Now there is no other emetic that I could employ besides it, under these conditions, unless it be sanguinaria, and that has a heat and an acrimony that would be objectionable, although a very lenient emetic. To show in addition to the above how safe it is, (a property which it has in common with all the zincic salts,) a little patient, a girl of five years, had given to her, by mistake, a teaspoonful of the undiluted "liquor;" she vomited repeatedly until what she brought up was streaked with blood; but as it was not understood as a mistake, no physician was sent for, and scarce any drink was given. Had there been, it would have been diluted and rinsed off with ease. She had then a very open chance for injury, yet no injury followed, not even pain in the bowels, or constipation, as might have been expected immediately. This was an extreme case, and in this case it did not wear the attributes of a poison. Although I do not approve or use emetics in acute croup, I should think it decidedly the best variety for those who do. And in toxical cases, especially if the agent be corrosive sublimate, it would be found one of the readiest and best, owing to its facility of uniting with that salt, rendering it more soluble, and bringing it off.

Third, as an expectorant. Diluted and mingled with syrup, simple or compound, it is of great use in increasing the expulsive faculty, or tone of the lungs, and the coherence of the matter to be expelled. Some degree of antispasmodic quality, which may be increased by small additions of ammonia, is present, and under these influences, the cough and its concomitants, in catarrh, bronchitis, bronchorrhœa and phthisis, are found to improve, sometimes remarkably.

Fourth, as a tonic and antiseptic of the gastro-enteric mucous membrane. The almost incorrigible diarrhoeas and lenteries, which form the sequels of phthisis, animal and other descriptions of poisoning; cholera morbus, dysentery, the milk thrush, the measles, and sudden shocks of the mind, are satisfactorily relieved, in the majority of cases, and sometimes permanently cured by small doses of the "liquor," say one drop every hour, or three drops every three hours, or a pill composed of two drops, with a grain of liquid storax, and white oxide of zinc q.s. to form the mass.

One great advantage appertaining to this salt is its wide range of compatibility; there are few salts employed in practice, beyond the nitrate of silver and protonitrate of quicksilver, which will undergo any change in consequence of being along with it in combination.

WILLIAM F. TEULON.

FLOATING FACTS.

Paper from Moss.—A Dr. Terry of Detroit, who has been experimenting on a half tun of moss obtained in Lake Superior region, according to the Cleveland Plaindealer, affirms that it makes beautiful white paper without any peculiar process. The moss is represented to exist in great quantities on Isle Royal and several other localities in the vicinity, and can be procured at a very moderate cost.

Exploration of the Nile.—The new expedition to the head waters of the Nile, under the command of the French Count d'Escayrac de Lauture, and under the protection and auspices of Said Pasha, promises to exceed all other similar projects hitherto set on foot. At Vienna, twelve officers of the Austrian general staff expressed their willingness to join the expedition, from which number three were selected, who, together with the mineralogist, Mayer, recently in the service of the Dutch government in Borneo, make up the complement of Germans in the expedition. The whole force will comprise twelve Europeans, besides the leader, and three hundred soldiers furnished by the Egyptian government. Among these latter, who are principally natives of the interior of Africa, there is supposed to be a sufficiency of interpreters. For the navigation of the Nile the expedition has thirty barks and two small steamers, and one hundred men, besides the necessary men and means to continue the journey by and beyond the head of navigation. Never before was an expedition fitted out in like manner.

Much is expected from the medical gentlemen in the expedition. They were to have left Europe on the 10th of September,—and it is therefore presumed they are on the way—Count d'Escayrac with the Germans embarking at Trieste, and the French expeditionists at Marseilles. The entire party will meet at Alexandria, and expect to reach Chartoum by December, where they will remain some time to complete the organization.

Conversation on Spiritualism.—Early in September, according to the New York Courier

& Enquirer, Col. Webb, the editor, and Prof. Hare, of Philadelphia, held an informal colloquy at Saratoga, something after the following manner. The Professor had been lecturing at the Metropolitan Hall, on the evidences of immortality,—and although seventy-five years old, has, according to report, been a sceptic. No one objected when he proposed to lecture in the ladies' parlor.

The age and high standing of the Professor, and respect for his past character, commanded the respect of all present; and when he solemnly assured the audience that he embarked in the investigation of the subject simply to expose and destroy what he considered an absurdity, but that the spirits of his father, brother, sister and friends begged and entreated of him to listen to them while they gave him evidence of its truth, he evidently made a deep impression upon all present, especially the youthful and those who did not know that he is, and ever has been, an open scoffer at all revealed religion.

At this stage of the proceedings, Gen. Webb arose and inquired of the Professor, whether in his lecture the evening previous, in his published book, and in his conversations on the piazza of the hotel, he had not proclaimed that Spiritualism, as understood by him, necessarily involved a *renunciation of all belief in the Bible and in revealed religion?* At this the Professor flew into a passion, declared the interruption impertinent and said he would not be catechized. Gen. Webb said that in his own lecture room on the preceding evening, he had not presumed to interrupt him; but that here, in the parlor of a hotel common to all, it was his right so to do, and to put the unsuspecting and the young persons present upon their guard. The Professor was very angry, but finally promised that when through with his lecture he would answer questions. Gen. Webb replied, that as the Professor had proclaimed it to be the duty of every *honest* man, to inquire after and elicit truth, so in his judgment, was it the duty of every *Christian* man, to expose and correct error; and that, having given the *caution*, he was content to wait until the Professor had finished.

Upon the Professor's closing, Gen. Webb rose, when immediately the Professor insisted that he should not be heard because he had interrupted him, but finally was compelled to be quiet. Gen. Webb then said—"I do not intend to ask any questions of Professor Hare, whose age and position entitle him to our profound respect; but I desire to make a state-

ment to you. I heard the Professor lecture last night. On that occasion, on the piazzas of this Hotel, and in his book now lying on that table, he has proclaimed, on the authority of the spirits of Washington, Franklin, Adams, Chalmers, Clay, Jackson, his own father and a host of others, that there is not one particle of truth in the Bible or revealed Religion; but that the whole fabric of Christianity is an imposition upon the credulity of mankind. If I misrepresent the Professor I hope he will correct me." The Professor simply bowed. Gen. Webb then continued: "Early in life I was in the same law office with Judge Edmonds, who is the head and front of this offending."

Professor Hare—I deny that.

General Webb—I yield the point. My brother married Judge Edmonds' sister, and I have known and respected him from boyhood. I mention these facts to show that I speak *advisedly* when I say that Judge Edmonds, who is at least an older convert to Spiritualism than Professor Hare, and who is considered by the public as the chief of the sect, has already assured his friends and relations that he, too, has consulted the spirits of Washington, Franklin, Clay, Kent, and, in short, all the worthies named by Prof. Hare, and that they, one and all, *assure him* that there is nothing in Spiritualism which conflicts, directly or indirectly, with *the religion of the Bible!* Now, I have the greatest possible respect for the veracity of both Judge Edmonds and Professor Hare, but, when I find them differing so widely in regard to what the spirits declare, I have no alternative but to believe them acting under some strange delusion, or to suppose them guilty of falsehood and deception, or to assume that the spirits with whom they commune are lying spirits; whose testimony is not to be relied on, and more particularly, when *all* their teachings are at war with the teachings of the Saviour of the world. I have nothing more to say, and leave the Professor to make any explanation he pleases.

Professor Hare then proceeded to explain, that the spirits with which Edmonds converses, *are lying spirits*; and that they had tried to deceive him also, but that he was too much for them! He had told Edmonds so, and tried to convince him that Spiritualism proved the falsehood of what we call revelation! He then commenced a lecture to prove all revelations *false*; when his hearers dispersed. Subsequently, however, another gathering collected around him, and the Professor pretended to converse with his sister, brother, &c., when

many very ridiculous and disgusting revelations were made, such, for instance, as that Washington has married another woman in his sphere, and that his wife has married another man; but he refused to name the parties!

Charity here proposes a question. Is the man insane?

Longevity of Actors.—Here is a long catalogue of names, copied from Bentley's Miscellany, which may be of service to some future physiological writer; and that is the only apology necessary to make for its insertion in the Medical World:—"Killigrew died at the age of 88; John Lowin, 83; Bowman (who died in 1739, but had several times performed before the second Charles), 88; Quin, 73; Mrs. Garrick, 98; Mrs. Clive, 75; Beard, 74; Rich, 70; Betterton, 75; Quick, 83; King, 76; Charles Dibdin (the naval song writer), 74; Murphy, 78; Barrymore, 71; Wycherley, 75; Southern, 86; Moody, 85; Mrs. Bracegirdle, 85; Macklin, 107; Cibber, 86; Cumberland, 79; Hull, 76; Yates (the contemporary of Garrick, not he of the Adelphi), 89; Munden, 74; Chamberlain (a provincial actor), 86; Mrs. Abington, 84; "Gentleman" Smith, 89; John Johnstone, 82; Pope, 73; Mrs. Hartley, 73; John Bannister, 76; Mrs. Bannister, 92; Fawcett, 72; Powell, 82; George Colman, "the younger," 74; Gattie, 70; Mrs. John Kemble, 88; Mrs. Sparks, 83; O'Keefe, 86; Wroughton, 74; Mrs. Glover, 70; Betterton (her father), 83; Elkanah Settle, 75; Handel, 76; Haydn, 78; Madame Mara, 84; Mrs. Siddons, 76; Mrs. Mattocks, 81; Charles Abbot, 89; Mrs. Pitt, 79; Roger Kemble (the father of John and Charles), 82; Mrs. Wallick, (the mother of James and Henry), 90; Blisset, 83; Brunton, 82; Wewitzer, 76; Mrs. Davenport, 84; Miss Pope, 75; T. Dibdin, 70; Packer, 78; Byrne, 90; Philip Astley (the founder of the amphitheatre), 72; Saunders, (the noted "showman," who is said to have fostered Edmund Kean and Andrew Ducrow), 90; Henry Johnston, 70; Miss Besford, (for many seasons at Covent Garden), 94; the benevolent Joanna Baillie, 89; Patrick Barrett (the father of the Irish stage), 88; Downton, 88; Mrs. Harlowe, 87; Charles Kemble, 79; Richard Jones, 73; Mrs. Edwin, 82; and Mrs. Ann Kelly, 103. The latter lady, who died at Lewisham some three years since, quitted the stage at the age of sixty, having lost her hearing. She was a member of the company which boasted of the talents of Edmund Kean and Sheridan Knowles, before either had been

greeted with metropolitan plaudits ; and it was with no mean pride that the old lady recounted the fact of her having played Alicia to the Jane Shore of the Siddons. Robert Lindley died in 1855, at the age of 83. He, too, was of the theatre, in which he was known in 1794—two years after Mozart's death, and more than a quarter of a century before Weber was heard of. How often have we seen that "comely old man"—in years long after—winding his way into the orchestra.

The combined ages of those whose names we have given amount to five thousand nine hundred and thirty-one years. Time, therefore, is surely still in its infancy, and antiquity is to be considered as naught. Here are but seventy-three from the number of those whom the stage has delighted to honor, and yet their lives united make the world as yesterborn, for they reach back to a period which is dateless—some seventy years before the creation! * *

Cave Underhill continued to perform after he had reached his eightieth year! Macklin loitered upon the boards till after fourscore years and ten ; the dramatic life of Yates spread over three-quarters of a century ; John Bannister clung to the lamps after uttering his farewell words, and could scarcely be removed from them ; the Siddons occasionally revisited the footlights after her professional career had ended, and at home read plays to delighted circles, winning from her ancient porter the homely criticism—"The old lady tunes her pipes as well as ever she did."

Japanese Medicine.—The Japanese are exceedingly ignorant of the real nature or treatment of diseases. Their surgery is barbarous, according to the latest observations. Still, some of their medical preparations are very remarkable, producing most singular effects.

They possess an article under the name of *dosia*, which, in the form of a dry powder, when put into the ears and nostrils of a stiff, dead body, soon makes the joints perfectly flexible. Instead of enclosing the bodies of the dead in coffins of a length and breadth proportionate to the stature and bulk of the deceased, they place them in a tub three feet high, two feet and a half in diameter at the top, and two feet at bottom. It is difficult to conceive how the body of a grown person can be compressed into so small a space, when the limbs, rendered rigid by death, cannot be bent in any way. Under such circumstances they resort to the *dosia*. A young Dutchman having died in a factory at Dezima, the body

was left all night exposed to the air, on a table placed near an open window, in order that it might become completely stiff. Next morning several Japanese went to examine the corpse, which was as hard as a piece of wood. One of the interpreters drew from his bosom a *santock*, or pocket-book, and took out of it an oblong paper, filled with a coarse powder resembling sand. This was the famous *dosia*. He put a pinch into the ears, another into the nostrils, and a third into the mouth ; and presently, whether from the effect of this drug, or of some trick, the arms, which had been crossed over the breast, dropped of themselves, and in less than twenty minutes, by the watch, the body recovered its flexibility. The *dosia* is called excellent in child-bearing. An infusion of this powder, taken even in perfect health, is said to have virtues which cause it to be in request among the Japanese of all classes. It cheers the spirits and refreshes the body. It is carefully tied up in a white cloth and dried, after being used, as it will serve a great number of times without losing its virtues.

Early Maturity.—A lady in Alexandria, Egypt, but twenty-six years of age, is a grandmother !

Extraordinary Development of the Beard.—John Mayo, a distinguished painter in the service of Charles V, had a beard so prodigiously long that it touched the floor and he could stand upon it ; this cataract of hair he kept tied up with ribbons to his button-holes, sometimes unfastening it at the Emperor's wish, opening the doors and windows that it might blow into the faces of angry courtiers. Another famous beard was that of a Bavarian merchant, who kept it enclosed in a velvet bag to prevent it from dragging on the ground. An old writer, of more gravity than veracity, asserts that the inhabitants of Harndenburgh had formerly the singular custom of electing the Burgomaster who had the longest beard and biggest foot.

Over-dosing.—Punch, who comments upon everything, utters these saws :—"There is just as much intemperance in drinking physic as drinking anything else. It is a great pity there is no Maine Liquor-Law for medicine ! The first time a quack feels your pulse may be an accident, but the second should be a repulse. No man ruins his health without bringing the consequences down upon himself. Like Samson, he destroys the temple, and buries himself in the ruins."

Strength of the Jaws.—Some physiologist says that the muscles of the human jaw produce a power equal to four hundred and thirty-four pounds. The two temporal and the two masseters are amazingly powerful in the large carnivorous animals. Science has made curious developments.

Effects of Hard Water upon Animals.—Horses have an instinctive love of soft water, and refuse hard water, if they can possibly get the former. Hard water produces a rough and staring coat on horses, and renders them liable to gripes. Pigeons also refuse hard water, if they can obtain access to soft. Cleg-horn states that hard water in Minorca causes diseases in the system of certain animals, especially sheep. So much are race-horses influenced by the quality of the water, that is not unfrequent to carry a supply of soft water to the locality in which the race is to take place, lest, there being only hard water, the horses should lose condition.

Fanaticism a Disease.—Those who have paid attention to this extraordinary malady of the mind, know well that while nothing is more violent at one moment, nothing is more flexible at another. Against the assaults of reason, it is a rock—it is adamant; but to self-interest or a covert passion, it is often surprisingly ductile. The genuine fanatic is gifted with a power which will equally uphold him, whether he walks to the right or to the left, and let him change his course as often as he will. He has a logic that is always triumphant—which proves him always in the right—whether he would advance or recede. Success—it is God's own sanction; failure—it is what you please; God's disapproval, if you would retreat; a trial only of your faith, if you have the heart to advance.

There are sections of country in which fanaticism is endemic. All the mountainous regions of Asia Minor are cursed with it—every race of men who have had the political control of those parts, suffer intensely from the disease. In our own country, it is occasionally epidemic. There is a mighty excitement, called the last great or paramount question, every few years, which gradually dies out, to be succeeded by another, equally important, while the fever lasts.

Indian Skulls.—Mr. Bancroft, in his history of the United States, states that the skull of the North American Indian so nearly resembles that of the Mongolian across the Pacific, that

a "careful observer," could not, out of a heap, distinguish them from each other. Is that a fact? If it is a fact, does it then prove his conclusion, *i. e.*, a common origin?

The American Phrenological Journal observes:—"There is more resemblance between the skulls of the races named, than between either of them and any other race; still, although there are many points of strong resemblance, we think a "careful observer" could distinguish them readily, especially a phrenologist. Those who take the similarity of cheek bones, or the position of the teeth, as a sufficient resemblance to constitute identity, would not be likely to distinguish the marked mental differences existing between different tribes which are indicated by the form of particular parts of the skull, and thus would be led to call races alike, which a phrenologist would discover to be essentially different, as to the question of a common origin? We may remark that these tribes are quite as much alike as are different members of either the English, French or German nations, which are unquestionably of Caucasian stock.

We see, every day, low, debased specimens of our own race, who have had dissolute, depraved, unintellectual and uneducated progenitors, for half a dozen generations, and they have thus inherited an organization as much below a good specimen of a man as the Chinaman is below a well-organized Englishman. This question of a common origin, or rather of divers origins, is not to be decided by a few random observations and isolated specimens.

Kinesipathy.—The patient is placed by the assistant in a prescribed position, whether it be reclining, lying, sitting, standing, kneeling, etc., and he is made, with or without resistance, to bend and extend his arms, to turn his body, etc., or submit to a friction or percussion applied to the chest, stomach, limbs, etc., or to a pressure made on the main trunk of a nerve, a blood-vessel, etc. Between each movement the patient rests from three to five minutes. Every three or four weeks, as the case may be, the prescription, if it be necessary, is changed, and new movements introduced.

Dr. Chas. H. Shepard, 650 Sixth ave., New York, has introduced, and is now practising this new system. In connection with Hydro-pathy, Kinesipathy will prove itself harmless. Professor Georgii, from Sweden, who has a large establishment in London, is the originator of this singular practice.

Hydrophobia.—Mr. Daniel Sullivan, an assistant at the dog pound in the city of New York, was bitten by a dog in the right leg, and lunar caustic was applied to the injured part by a physician. The wound soon after festered and discharged freely, but without causing Mr. S. any serious apprehensions, and with the application of the usual remedies, it was hoped would heal over. About three weeks after the bite, however, Mr. Sullivan, in attempting to drink, experienced great difficulty in swallowing, and other symptoms of hydrophobia subsequently followed. Medical assistance was called, and several remedies applied, but the patient grew worse. Medicine was administered by soaking a rag in it and applying that to his mouth, when the sufferer sucked in the medicine through his teeth. It was found necessary to bind his legs and arms, to prevent him from injuring himself and others; but through all his sufferings Mr. S. retained the full possession of his mental faculties. A large number of physicians were called, but their methods of relief were unavailing, and Mr. Sullivan died on Friday night.

People of Africa.—The inhabitants of Northern Guinea are not all to be placed on one common level. They possess many traits of character in common, and, compared with the civilized nations of the world, there are none of them that can claim a higher grade than that of a barbarous or semi-civilized people. * * * They live in circular huts with peaked roofs, not well lighted or ventilated, but strongly built, and quite sufficient to protect them alike from the overpowering heat of the day, and the chilly damps of night. They wear no clothing except a loose cloth around their bodies, and this, with a large proportion of the population, is scarcely sufficient for the purposes of decency. They are active and industrious, and are becoming every year more extensively engaged both in agriculture and commerce. On the Gold and Slave Coasts a different and higher grade of civilization prevails. Here the houses are constructed with clay walls, of quadrangular form, and frequently two and three stories high, and when whitewashed, which is not uncommon, present quite an air of civilization. They wear more clothing, cultivate the soil more extensively, and have a greater variety of mechanic arts. Physically, however, the great Fanti nations are inferior to the Kru family.

There are no extended governments in any

part of Northern Guinea, with the exception of the military despotisms of Ashanti and Dehomi, and these are not larger than the second or third rate kingdoms of Europe. The people, as a general thing, live in small independent communities, varying in population from one or two to fifteen or twenty thousand. The form of government everywhere is monarchy, but in reality has much more of the popular and patriarchal than of the monarchic element.

The Veys, though not numerous or powerful, have recently invented an alphabet for writing their own language, and are enjoying the blessings of a written system, for which they are entirely indebted to their own ingenuity and enterprise. This is undoubtedly one of the most remarkable achievements of this or any other age, and is itself enough to silence forever the cavils and sneers of those who think so contemptuously of the intellectual endowments of the African race. The characters used in this system are all new, and were invented by the people themselves within the last twenty years. The idea of communicating thoughts in writing was probably suggested by the use of Arabic among the Mandingoes, and from the practice of white men who occasionally visit their country for the purpose of trade.

Castes in Africa.—A tribe of Senagambia, which is watered by the Senegal and Gambia, in 10° N. E., and interior to the distance of six or seven hundred miles, known as the Jalofs, are considered the handsomest inhabitants of Africa.

They have woolly hair, thick lips, a glossy black complexion, but with tall and graceful forms. Goldberry describes them as mild, hospitable, generous and trustworthy; and of their women he says, they are handsome, and as attractive as black females can be. * * *

Among the Jalofs there is said to be a species of caste quite as marked as that of India. Besides the nobles, who are called the "good Jalofs," there are four other ranks or castes: the *tug*, or smiths; the *oudae*, who are tanners and sandalmakers; the *moul*, who are fishermen; and the *gaewell*, who are musicians or bards. The "good Jalofs" will not intermarry with any of the other castes.

The *gaewell* are not permitted to live within the walls of their towns, to keep cattle, or drink sweet milk, and are refused interment, on the allegation that nothing will grow where one of their caste has been buried. Still,

their services are often brought into requisition by the nobles, or "good Jalofs," who pay them liberally for chanting the praises of their ancestors on great public occasions. Besides the castes above mentioned, there is another class, called Saoobies, who are said to be much like the European gypsies in their customs, manners, and general character. * * *

The Jalofs are said to be very simple in their modes of living. Their houses are small, and for the most part, of a conical shape. Every man, however, of respectability always has two houses — one in which he sits and sleeps, and the other in which his cooking is done. The dress, both of men and women, consists of two square cloths, one of which is worn around the waist, and the other is thrown over the shoulders. They manufacture cloth of a better texture and of a broader web than most of the other tribes of the country. Their chief article of food is a dish called *kuskus*, made of pounded maize or millet, and milk.

Chloroform in Poisoning. — The Rochester *Democrat* records a case where chloroform was successfully used in a case of poisoning. The patient had taken by mistake four grains of strychnine, and two large emetics failed to produce vomiting. Violent spasms set in, and the jaws becoming firmly locked, his mouth could not be opened to administer remedies. Chloroform was then administered, which stopped the spasms in about ten minutes, when another powerful emetic was given. It was found necessary to keep the patient constantly under the influence of the ænesthetic, else the spasms would return. In ten minutes after the third emetic was taken, vomiting was produced. The patient was kept under the influence of chloroform until the next morning, the system throwing off the poison in the meantime, and he was thus rescued from death.

Dead Men's Teeth. — Dead Englishmen's teeth, collected on the battle-fields in the Crimea, are now in great demand by the London and Paris dentists! The price current of human ivory has greatly fluctuated recently, owing to the quantities of deceased soldiers' masticators put into the market. It is stated the idea first entered the heads of some Londoners to send voyaging clerks to the seat of war in search of teeth. The harvest was a good one, apparently, and promises to yield a remarkable price, as connoisseurs vaunt the superiority of Englishmen's and Highlander's teeth over all others.

Arrival of Monster Snakes. — The brig Planet, just arrived from Africa, brought to Salem several monster snakes — anacondas; one 18 feet long, and another 35 feet in length. These snakes, when at liberty, are ravenous and dangerous, and will seize animals of large size, and after crushing them so as to break all their bones, swallow them whole. The crew of the Planet report that the larger of these snakes had devoured a woman and a child before it was taken. On Saturday they were preparing to feed it with a good sized dog.

People of Peru. — The population of Peru, like that of Chili, Bolivia, and Equador, consists of a *very* few of pure Spanish extraction, a great many of a mixture of Spanish and Indian, with quite frequently a dash of the negro, a cross of the negro and Indian, and a few pure Indians. The color varies from a dark brunette, through various shades of yellow and mahogany color, to glossy black.

"Some are black, and some are blacker."

The morals of the Peruvian population are peculiar to that country.

A woman does not become an outcast as soon as it is known that she can no longer "braid her hair with the virgin snood," while she has yet no right to the title of wife. An immense number form connections of convenience; indeed, I do not suppose that more than one-half of the couples who are now living together in the rustic districts of Peru, are married. A pretty girl prefers such a connection with a man who is well off, and will give her a comfortable house, pretty dresses and servants, to marrying with one of her own class, although she knows that the former arrangement will be only temporary. She probably gains caste by the step. She certainly gains in a pecuniary point of view, and is not subject to the awful drudgery and often cruelty incident to the married life of a peon family. She lets hereafter take care of itself. The number of illegitimate children as compared with the legitimate is incredible. The former seems to be the rule, the latter the exception. I am acquainted with a man whose business has for many years called him frequently to four different towns from ninety to two hundred miles apart. In each of these towns he keeps a house, the mistress of which has borne him a large family of children. At the house of a cura where I frequently visited, in one town where I tarried, I was introduced to two pretty girls as his *nieces*. I afterwards learned that they were his daughters. As the Roman

church does not allow her priests to marry, he could not "make an honest woman of" their mother. At another house where I once visited I was introduced to the wife and all the family. The next day two young ladies arrived who were affectionately received by all, and they called "mine host" *papa*, and rightly too; while their mother was his wife's sister and lived a few doors off. Instances are by no means rare where a man acknowledges twenty or thirty, and I have been acquainted with one man who gave me the names of sixty-three illegitimate children, several of whom were officers in the civil department of Government. He said Peru owed him a pension.

Prolific Humanity.—In the church of St. Nicolas, at Ghent, there is a tablet to the memory of Oliver Minjan and Amalberga Slangen, his wife, who were the parents of thirty-one children, twenty-one boys and ten girls. Old Oliver appeared at the head of his twenty-one sons, all in uniform, when Charles V made his entry into Ghent, as Count of Flanders.

A Physician Murdered at Wheatfield, N. Y.—We are called upon to record one of the most cold-blooded murders that ever stained the annals of crime in Niagara county. Three persons—a German physician named Emet Stange, aged about 35 years, a woman with whom he boarded, named Berlin, aged 30, and a girl named Doethia, daughter of the woman, aged 10 years, all living at the German settlement called Burgholtz, in Wheatfield,—were brutally murdered at that place on Saturday night last. The body of the Doctor was found lying by the roadside yesterday (Sunday) morning, about 7 o'clock, one mile from the house, with four wounds inflicted by an axe upon his person. A large gash inflicted on the left side of his face, reaching from the top of the skull to the corner of the mouth, cutting through the eye; another on the right side of the head, cutting through the ear, and a deep wound on his back as he was found lying on his face. The body of the woman was found by the neighbors, in the morning, lying on the floor, with a deep gash in the top of the skull, which was evidently inflicted while she was standing, and while she was in the act of lighting a candle, as she held a box of matches in one hand and a candlestick in the other.

The body of the girl was found in bed, weltering in her blood, with a large flesh wound upon the right arm, it having evidently been extended, when she was attacked by the mur-

derer, to shield her face from the blows. Her head was horribly cut. Of course, great excitement exists, and various suspicions are rife as to who was the perpetrator of the foul deed.

The Doctor, it is supposed, was enticed away by the murderer, under pretext of attending a professional call, and decoyed to the place where the deed was accomplished. The assassin then repaired to the house to complete the work of death. The wounds were evidently inflicted with an axe, as the marks of that instrument are plainly to be seen in the ground beside the Doctor's body. An incident is worthy of note: an affectionate dog was found sitting on the body of the Doctor, faithfully guarding it to the last.

The husband of the woman murdered is in Germany, and was expected out here for a month past. Dr. Stange had parted from his wife some two years since, and lived with the woman who was murdered. We obtained the above particulars from Coroner Botsford, who was called to hold an inquest on the bodies by the overseers of the poor of that town, but when he arrived the matter was under investigation by Coroner Canfield of Niagara Falls.

Charcoal.—Charcoal is known to have the power of absorbing ammonia and other gases, and that to a very considerable extent; it is taken for granted, therefore, that its power exists equally under all circumstances; but such is not the case. It absorbs ammonia by virtue, principally of its great porosity—by a kind of surface attraction possessed by all solids for gases, and having relation, of course, to the quantity of surface—hence, charcoal, in common with all porous bodies offering in a given weight a large amount of surface, has a great absorptive power for gases. When, therefore, we treat charcoal saturated with ammoniacal gas with water, the superior attraction of the water comes into play, and the ammonia is transferred from the charcoal to the solution. In the opposite case, that is to say, when a solution of ammonia is filtered through charcoal, its strength cannot be sensibly diminished. Indeed, this fact has been experimentally demonstrated by Dr. Anderson, who published a series of trials, proving the want of power in charcoal to remove ammonia from solution.

Dr. Davy has recently published the results of his experiments with peat and peat charcoal as absorbents of ammonia, from which it appears that fermenting urine mixed with peat charcoal lost three-fourths of all the ammonia it contained, while the same urine mixed with the

same peat not charred, lost no ammonia by several days exposure to the atmosphere.

These experiments show that peat charcoal has very little power of absorbing and retaining the ammonia of excrementitious matter when mixed with it: whereas peat possesses this remarkable property in an eminent degree, and absorbs and retains in a most striking manner.

Proverbial Philosophy. — It is not what people eat, but what they digest, that makes them strong. It is not what they gain, but what they save, that makes them rich. It is not what they read, but what they remember, that makes them learned. It is not what they profess, but what they practise, that makes them righteous. These are very plain and important truths, too little heeded by gluttons, spend-thrifts, bookworms, and hypocrites.

A Child with Two Faces. — Nothing is more common than politicians with two faces, but the following account is a wide departure from the ordinary course of nature: —

There is at present exhibiting at the Prince of Wales Bazaar, in Regent street, one of the strangest *lusus naturæ* that ever came under the notice of the medical profession or the general public. We allude to an Algerian boy, 13 years of age, one side of whose face, almost down to his chin, is perfectly black, and covered with long hair. He is the son of an officer in the French army settled in Algiers, and his mother, a Greek lady, is said to have died in her confinement from the shock of seeing him. He displays considerable intelligence, and does not appear at all strange to visitors.

A Colored Genius. — A young colored man, a slave of John T. Hammond, Esq., of Annapolis, recently planned and built a small steamboat, and a few days since made a trial trip, with six passengers, attaining a speed of seven miles an hour, and working admirably. He thinks he will soon be able to make important improvements in steamboat engines.

Vanilla: — The vanilla, so much prized for its delicious flavor, is the product of a vine which grows to the top of the loftiest trees. Its leaves somewhat resemble those of the grape; the flowers are red and yellow, and when they fall off, are succeeded by the pods, which grow in clusters, like our ordinary beans; green at first, they change to yellow, and finally to a dark brown. To be preserved they are gathered when yellow, and put in heaps,

for a few days, to ferment. They are afterwards placed in the sun to dry, flattened by the hand, and carefully rubbed with cocoanut oil, and then packed in dry plantain leaves, so as to confine their powerful aromatic odor. The vanilla bean is the article used to scent snuff, flavor ice-creams, jellies, etc. The plant grows in Central America and other hot countries.

Way to Discover Murderers. — Ridiculous as the following relation may appear, it is running a tilt through the newspapers, and no doubt may be thought true by persons who already believe that when a murderer touches the dead body he has deprived of life, the blood will gush from the wounds. The following method will, in many cases, detect the perpetrators of a murder. It is well known that all objects are actually painted or impressed on the retina of the eye. Should a person die by a violent death, the objects before the eye at the time, remain impressed on the retina. If the covering of the eye is scraped down thin, and a powerful magnifying glass applied, this image will be distinctly seen. This was the first discovery of the daguerreotype. Any scientific physician can do this.

Races of Man. — Dr. Charles Pickering, an English author of a book entitled as above, describes eleven distinct races of men, founded on what he deems essential differences. He thus enumerates them, and the population of each race: White, 350,000,000; Mongolian, 300,000,000; Maylayan, 120,000,000; Telingan, 60,000,000; Negro, 55,000,000; Ethiopian, 5,000,000; Abyssinian, 8,000,000; Papuan, 3,000,000; Australian, 500,000; Hottentot, 500,000 — total, 900,000,000. Dr. Pickering argues that the human race radiated from four centres: one from Thibet, in Asia; two from Abyssinia, in Africa; three and four from North and South America.

Horse Killed by Fright. — The following singular incident occurred at Evansville, Jefferson county, New York. A gentleman with a very fine, high-spirited, four-year-old horse, had driven down to the station, for the purpose, as he said, of accustoming his horse to the locomotive whistle. As the train appeared, the engine screamed, of course, as an engine only can scream, and at the very first sound of the whistle, the horse fell down dead in his tracks, the victim of a mortal fright.

Last season a horse, tied to a stake, in a village, saw an elephant, as he turned a cor-

ner, belonging to a travelling caravan, which so astonished the poor creature, that he fell dead in the harness.

Successful Application of Electricity.—Dr. Robert Remak, of the University of Berlin, Prussia, known to the medical profession of both hemispheres as an eminent physiologist, and noted for his valuable discoveries in the sphere of microscopical observations, has lately invented and successfully applied, a new method of introducing constant galvanic currents into the nerves and muscles of patients, whereby cases of palsy of every kind, apoplexy, atrophy of the muscles and of the spinal marrow—some of them from ten to twenty years' standing—have been, it is said, entirely cured within a few minutes. Within a period of six weeks, out of four hundred patients that had lost the use of their limbs and muscles, upwards of two hundred have been entirely restored to health, whilst the remainder were rapidly improving under the treatment.

Bookworms.—In paper, leather, and parchment, are found various animals, popularly known as "bookworms." The larvæ of *Crambus pinguinalis* will establish themselves upon the binding of a book, and, spinning a robe, will do it little injury. A mite (*Acarus eruditus*) eats the paste that fastens the paper over the edges of the binding, and so loosens it. The caterpillar of another little moth takes its station in damp old books, between the leaves, and there commits great ravages. The little boring wood beetle also attacks books, and will even bore through several volumes. An instance is mentioned of 27 folio volumes being perforated, in a straight line, by the same insect, in such a manner that, by passing a cord through the perfect round hole made by it, the 27 volumes could be raised at once. The wood beetle also destroys prints and drawings, whether framed or kept in a portfolio. The "death watch" is likewise accused of being a depredator of books. These details were collected by the experienced keeper of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, in 1841.

Unsophisticated Appetite.—Physiologists have remarked that fat and greasy food containing a quantity of carbon is peculiar to old countries, whereas the inhabitants of the tropics delight in fruits, vegetables, and articles of diets which do not increase caloric. This must be taken *cum grano*. In Italy, Spain, and Greece the general use of olive oil begins. In Africa

and Asia, especially in the hottest parts, the people habitually eat enough clarified butter to satisfy an Esquimaux.

A Modern Arabian Physician.—At Beirut resides one of the best of living Arab poets, the Sheikh Nasif el Yezigy. He, too, is in the employment of the American missionaries, as corrector for their press. Books, already roughly translated, are given over to him, so that all foreign idioms shall be strained out; for the Sheikh ignores every language but his own copious Arabic. He seems to be peculiarly adapted by nature for the enunciation of that most difficult tongue; and its deep gutturals gurgle in his larynx with the naturalness of bears and hyenas growling in a menagerie. He composes in prose with great facility, his periods being equally admired by the Arabs for their rhythm and their perspicuity. He tells a story well, cocking his turban significantly when the climax is attained; and delights in personal anecdotes, always giving the genealogy of his hero to the third and fourth generation. He is a writer of some celebrity in his own land; has studied medicine in the older authors, acknowledging no authority later than Galen and Avicenna; is a respectable jurist in Islamic law, and, what is more, is a man of much kindly feeling, a good neighbor, and a universal peace-maker.

Erysipelas.—*Why called St. Anthony's Fire.*—A note in the Life of St. Anthony, in Alban Butler's Lives (Jan. 17th), explains the origin of the name: "In 1089 a pestilential erysipelas distemper, called the Sacred Fire, swept off great numbers in most provinces of France; public prayers and processions were ordered against the scourge. At length it pleased God to grant many miraculous cures of this dreadful distemper to those who implored his mercy through the intercession of St. Anthony, especially before his relics; the church in which they were deposited was resorted to by great numbers of pilgrims, and his patronage was implored all over the kingdom against this disease."

Death from a Viper's Sting.—The Memorial de Loire says: "M'le Ruilliere of Billon, when gathering fruit in her garden last week, was wounded by a small viper. She paid no attention to the hurt, which was but slight, and the next morning thought no more of it. Two days after, however, her arm swelled considerably, and when medical assistance was afforded it was found that it was too late. She expired on the fourth day in great agony."

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. R. L. Cowper, of Murfreesboro', N. C., has recovered \$25,000 damages from the Weldon and Wilmington Railroad Company, for injuries sustained in a collision on that road in February, 1855.

Dr. J. Z. Forney, U. S. commercial agent for Monrovia, arrived at his station in Africa early in June. A very cordial and flattering reception was given him by the government.

Dr. J. H. Snowden, of Boston, when last heard from was in the Sinore region, Africa. One of his letters gives an account of the final termination of a war between the Republic of Liberia and the Bloo-Barra, Boutahs and some other ferocious native tribes.

Dr. M. E. Winchell has resigned the office of assistant physician in the New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum.

In 1850, the number of insane in the United States, according to the census, was 15,610.

The States of Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan have each asylum, in contemplation, or in the process of erection, for the accommodation of lunatics.

Alexis Baumann is making an extraordinary sensation among the savans in Paris. On whatever object he fastens his eyes, which is portable, placed about four feet distant, it begins to quiver, and then suddenly leaps, as it were, directly at him. This is puzzling the learned prodigiously. They cannot explain the phenomenon.

Suicide has been extremely prevalent the present season, in France. Six persons killed themselves in one day in Paris. Hanging is becoming a favorite method of shuffling off the coil of mortality in the Bois de Boulogne. One particular tree became so celebrated on account of two young men having swung themselves off on its strong limbs, that the authorities cut it down.

In the year 1831, about one million and a half pounds of eels were taken in artificial basins connected with the river Po, which were valued at \$170,000.

Apartments exposed to the free action of the sun's rays are far more healthful to the occupants than rooms on the north side, which have no such advantages. Light walls also contribute to cheerfulness, while dark ones and gloomy houses, deeply shaded, predispose to gloom, low spirits, unhappiness and blue devils.

In Vienna, within the last three years, 4725 horses have been eaten by the poor, to whom

the meat is sold by permission of the public authorities. The sale of one pound in Boston, if detected, would send the vendor to the House of Correction. Such is the force of prejudice in two countries, equally civilized.

A chimney of a vitrol factory in Providence, R. I., is 214 feet high, 20 feet in diameter at the base, and 10 at the top.

Bedford Mineral Springs, in the State of Pennsylvania, have been sold for \$186,000!

An invalid's chair was exhibited at the late fair in Boston, that was much admired by physicians. Where is it to be had?

Throughout Italy, horses are fed on good baked barley and coarse wheat bread, which is sliced with a knife and given to them several times a day, when travelling.

Where can physicians and medical students purchase the recent professional works announced to have been published in New York and Philadelphia?

Smallpox is creeping into the country towns again, as it generally does at the close of summer. There is a positive protection, but the people rarely avail themselves of it till the danger overtakes them.

Cases of typhus fever are said to be rather common of late; but the disease has not been difficult to manage when medical advice was seasonably sought.

Green tea is prescribed by experienced physicians for an astringent injection, with satisfactory results, in peculiar diseases.

In travelling up and down the rivers of the West, one is struck with the vast amount of quack medicines on sale to cure the *shakes*. The West almost equals Massachusetts as a market for pills. Their composition is not of the least importance to the purchaser. If they are the *celebrated patent pills*, they are patronized. They love physic, which has power, amazingly, even in the enlightened States. More clear profit is made on a small lot of worthless mixtures, falsely called family medicines, than on a tolerable cargo of imported goods.

Dr. James D. Dana, geologist of the U. S. exploring expedition under Capt. Wilkes, proposes to publish, by subscription, a quarto volume of 750 pages, illustrated with plates, accompanied by a folio atlas of twenty-one plates provided subscribers enough, at \$12 each, come forward to warrant the undertaking. It would be a great work and an honor to the country, therefore give the learned author immediate pecuniary encouragement.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, OCTOBER 29, 1856.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN NEW YORK.—Professor Draper's Introductory at the Medical College of the University of New York appears to have been well received by an intelligent audience of citizens. He was severe on quackery, and excited the risibility of his hearers, according to report, by the keenness of the sarcasm, and the exhibitions of wit with which the discourse was properly seasoned.

Dr. Draper is a man of industry and professional learning, whose various works on science are the best evidences of the clearness of his views and the strength of his understanding. Dr. Draper has taken the true ground in regard to empiricism. It is useless to waste strength in quarrelling with quacks, since it only increases their profits, and they laugh in their sleeves at our limited knowledge of mankind. Bring them into the fold by inducing them to enter medical institutions; hear lectures, and qualify themselves to practise a profession which they would scorn to disgrace, were they conscious of the enormity of the crime of tampering with the lives of their fellow-beings.

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

"The only mode by which quackery could be neutralized is by extending the domain of medical knowledge, and to effect that, reliance must be placed on the young men now entering or preparing to enter the profession. Far from supposing that there were many things in the structure and functions of the body which we could never comprehend, he believed that there was nothing in it which they would not at last explain, and then, and not till then, would it be a perfect monument of the wisdom and power of the Creator. In the application of the exact science of physiology, he looked for the rise of that great and noble practice of medicine which would lead inevitably to the final extinction of empiricism. Even now, that method was attended with results which must commend it to every thoughtful man, since it connected itself with those great truths which concern the human family most closely, and was bringing into the field of physical demonstration the existence and immortality of the soul of man, and was furnishing conspicuous illustrations of the attributes of God. The day was coming when the quack in medicine would depart to the same place to which had journeyed the astrologer, the alchemist, and when he would rejoin his comrades in that limbo, large and broad, of which MILTON spoke—the paradise of fools."

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE.—Characterized by vigor and decision, it would be strange indeed if anything were wanting to give eclat to the proceedings of the college. An introductory lecture, at the official opening of the lecture term, was given by Prof. B. Fordyce Barker, which, according to the comment of the Times, and the private note of the reporter of

The Medical World, was honored by the presence of distinguished persons of all professions and positions, who hope for the success of the enterprising faculty. Splendid music added to the excitement of the occasion, and the whole affair was brilliant and satisfactory.

Dr. Barker encouraged young men entering upon the study of medicine.

Dr. Tuthill, who was present, thus comments on Dr. Barker's very agreeable literary performance.

He observed "that Physicians do not attain that reputation which the same talent and industry would secure for them in other walks of life. JOHN HUNTER is less known than Lord MANSFIELD, LAENNEC much less so than DAVY. Still no confidence is so imputed as that reposed in the physician. Nevertheless, though we cannot, like the preacher, lawyer, or legislator, acquire a reputation co-extensive with theirs, we may secure by a diligent performance of our humbler, but not less useful duties, an interest in the hearts of a smaller circle, which may be more gratifying than the cold applause of a whole people."

Even rare qualifications of nature and education, except under circumstances uncommonly favorable, enable a man only to make but gradual progress.

Dr. Baillie of London, remarked that he had, never known a physician, who, from any cause, acquired business rapidly in London, who permanently retained it. If it be rapidly acquired this must be accomplished by means independent of those which give a firm hold on the confidence and affections of patients, for they cannot at once be displayed, nor can they at once have their full operation. Sir ASTLEY COOPER's receipts from his first year's practice were \$26; the second year, \$130; and so on until on the ninth year it amounted to \$5,500. Afterwards, his receipts ran up in one year to the enormous amount of \$115,000. Dr. HOPE, with a well-known London reputation, made \$1000 the first two years.

The Doctor gave similar and interesting particulars as to the professional history of Sir HENRY HALFORD, Dr. CHEYNE, of Dublin, and others. Some very appropriate and natural remarks on the relative duties of teachers and students, observed in conclusion that as the candidates for medical honors had come prepared to work, they would be expected to work, and very hard too.

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.—At the last meeting of the Association in New York, the subject of yellow fever was brought forward, and some valuable statistical memoranda cited. Dr. John W. Francis and Dr. Griscom occupied some time in a manner instructive to those present. Mr. Richards' remarks, however, on the education of idiots, was the gem of the evening.

"Idiocy was not a disease, but an arrest of development. Upon the recognition of this fact depends the entire treatment for these unfortunates. They are divided into three classes: First—Those in which there is not a sufficient amount of brain, as in the Aztecs that were recently in this city. These, he had posi-

tive knowledge from those who had known them in their native home in Nicaragua, were idiots, brother and sister, whose father was a very inferior man, a quarter negro and three-quarters Indian—their mother, one-eighth negro and seven-eighths Indian. They had the smallest heads he had ever seen. These were the pure idiots of SPURZHEIM.

Secondly—Those of low physical organizations, whose heads are not small or ill-shaped, and in this class may be enumerated the hydrocephalic and the like. These have many deficiencies, and among them the departure from the standard of natural heat is noticeable. Their animal heat is several degrees less than the normal standard.

Thirdly—Those where this situation is a functional disorganization, as in chorea. Great care is requisite in the treatment of these, lest insanity occur, to which they are peculiarly liable.”

PLAYING A FLEA.—A flood of communications from Western New-York, all bearing the same message, that an obscure physician of Buffalo, one Hunt, has made a violent personal onslaught on one of the editors of this Journal, accounts for a rapid increase of subscribers in that direction.

It is our intention to deal with measures, and not with individuals. But in this instance we make a departure from the ordinary course, in imitation of the philanthropic uncle Tobey, when he threw the fly out of the window. “Go, poor devil, there is room enough in the world for thee and me.”

If this is the same fellow referred to in one letter, as a “carcass” which the faculty of the Medical School, to quote his own vituperative language, have “tolerated rather than honored,” no doubt the scheme now incubating for removing the nuisance will ultimately be accomplished.

We never heard of him but once, and then in connection with a nauseating subject. It seems he was made sick by paddling in the stagnant water of the “raging canawl.” These are his own words—“We had a little personal experience on one occasion, and felt, for a week after leaving the vessel, like a school-boy after his first chew of tobacco.” What a witty dog! It is precisely the sensation experienced by those who read the editorial articles written by him in the Buffalo Medical Journal.

This ill-bred creature don’t like the cover of The Medical World. Neither do we; but cannot help ourselves. It is used by the publishers, as they choose; and being exclusively an affair of their own, we have no control or voice in the matter whatever, and therefore have no responsibilities at stake. Pray, Professor Ipecac, does the outside of the shell affect the quality of the milk in the cocoa nut? Nothing could be more ridiculous than for this ninny to object to exterior appearances, when it is obvious that the midwife of the almshouse would have strangled him at birth, had she professed the same sentiments.

An intimation that it is as dangerous in the present

year of grace, as it ever was, for people living in glass houses, to throw stones, is true. If this dapper jackal among the Buffalo lions, unprovoked and without the slightest cause, wantonly thrust his own soiled hands into a hornet’s nest, he must abide the consequences. It is morally certain that the smart of the sting will remain, while the recollection of his gross and uncalled-for insult to The Medical World, is held in remembrance by its owners and proprietors. Nor can it be allayed by any prescriptions of his own, as it is openly proclaimed of him, as Pinder Cockloft said of Dr. Costive,—

“For physic and farces,
His equal there scarce is;—
His farces are physic,
His physic a farce is.”

It is lamentably unfortunate for the future prospects of the institution, that men of agreeable manners and distinguished professional attainments, should be associated with the meanest apology for a lecturer, who has a mischief-making propensity to meddle with the private business of strangers, upon the principle of the hogreeve, who squealed, in imitation of a pig, to make it known that he was in office.

On no consideration should we have noticed the contemptible attack of this quarrel-seeking Hunt, who, like a barking cur at a coach wheel, might have every hair whipped from his mangy hide, were it not necessary to acknowledge the epistolary civilities of his near neighbors. They are clamorous for having Haman hung on his own gallows.

“Be aisy,—he shall have his deserts before we are done with him,” as Paddy cried to the rat, with one heel on the rogue’s tail.

Western Medical Students could attend all the lectures in the richly endowed University of Michigan, entirely free of cost, which are represented to be of a very high order. The Cleveland College also offers great inducements. Those located Easterly of Lake Erie, by entering their names at Albany, New-York and Boston, would find peculiar advantages in the department of general and descriptive anatomy and physiology, as those essential branches of a Medical education are taught by gentlemen, if they are actually in earnest, as to set forth the following declaration.

———“study

Anatomy?—Oh no, we won’t,
Under that mule, Scandal H. Hunt,—
With apish phiz and empty skull,—
Whose demonstrations are so dull,
That when the brainless man of gas
Opens his throat to wake the class,
It’s like the braying of an ass.”

MEDICAL THEORIES.—Each school of physicians has a favorite theory to maintain. The remedies they prescribe for diseases, are too frequently given to sustain the theory, rather than to overcome the malady. Dr. Phlebotomy said that the death of his patient after bleeding him a gallon, did not destroy his theory. That was sound, but the blood did not hold out long

enough to prove it. He is a successful practitioner who discovers what is necessary to be done; but he is still more skilful who discovers what is not to be done. Theories pass away, but diseases will exist as long as humanity violates all the laws of life on which health depends. It is far easier to swallow drugs than to reconcile opposing theories. The first may kill; and the latter are sure to die.

LEARNED PROFESSIONS.—Law, physic and divinity, by common consent, are the professions which have had precedence of all other intellectual or industrial pursuits. And yet they have as often been burdened by the weight of dunderheads as otherwise. The really learned men in either of them are exceedingly few. While one or two in an age have made their names illustrious, thousands upon thousands only lived to occupy space, and the memorials of them are too faint to be recognized.

There are in each of the learned professions, immense numbers of persons who have all the positions and emoluments usually pertaining to distinguished eminence, without meriting a tithe of the blessings they monopolize.

They are the lineal descendants of worthy individuals who achieved their own celebrity by personal effort; or they are the cousins and relatives of those who transmit position.

But not one of all these leave a trace behind them. Like butterflies, they flit in the sunshine, show their wings and die. Those, on the contrary, who make themselves known, do it by indefatigable industry. What is genius but the ability accompanied by a will to do and to have?

How many of all the lawyers in the United States are known in the adjoining county? Webster, Clay, and Wirt belonged to the bar—and they are destined to be prominent names in the annals of America. Of the clergy, on the continent,—how many in every twenty-five thousand is it presumed will be remembered for their profound biblical learning, a century hence?

Lastly,—were the questioner asked, who in the medical ranks of this great country will have his name perpetuated the longest? the answer would be, the man who has industriously written the results of his observations.

Inherited position, and inherited consequence, die with the individual. He who perseveres in overcoming obstacles,—and none are more formidable than the envy of those who are unable to obtain any distinction themselves, has a progressive mind,—advances society, and is identified with the literature and the chronicles of his time. He belongs to history.

Write down every fact, every thought, and every wish, and while thus economizing life, something is added to the common stock of information. It will all be wanted. Write, therefore, all difficult cases on the principle of law reports and decisions, to be guides for opinions, and precedents for those who are next to be upon the stage.

STUDY OF ANATOMY.—In after times it will be spoken of as an event, in the history of the most eminent surgeon and correct teacher of anatomy produced in New England, the late Dr. Warren, of Boston, that he gave his own body for the advancement of science. The moral effect on the public mind will be of incalculable advantage to the progress of anatomical researches. It will open the eyes and the understandings of legislators, to the importance of legalizing the dissection of human bodies in those States of the Union where it is now a criminal offence in the sight of the law. With all her Puritanical coldness, fanatical tendencies to be first and foremost in all the isms and absurdities for which she is ridiculed by liberal-minded strangers, Massachusetts has the honor of first legalizing a branch of study which is the foundation of all knowledge and skill in surgery,—viz., practical anatomy. To the disgrace of the country, in several neighboring States, it is not an uncommon circumstance to hear of prosecutions and persecutions too, because some student, more ardent than others for knowledge, is detected in the praiseworthy effort to qualify himself to practise medicine and surgery.

LONGEVITY.—In the United States it seems to be established that men and women who have been systematically industrious live the longest. Mental activity, like bodily exercise, is a condition necessary to health as well as length of days.

Physical energy alone, does not secure long life; but an agreeable exercise of the mind, combined with exercise in labor, whether in the field, the workshop, or the library, is essential to a good old age.

Many die early, who conform to this plan, which commentators on vital statistics have discovered to be common sense rules, securing the greatest amount of personal and family happiness. There are thousands of unforeseen contingencies to limit the period of human life; but were no deference paid to the great law of our being,—earning bread by the sweat of the brow—there would be fewer octogenarians and centenarians than are now annually recorded in the necrological records of all countries.

Idleness is discoverable in the face and form, as poverty of purse is by an old hat, a seedy coat, and unpaid bills.

MEDICAL JOURNALS.—They are so numerous in the United States, that every shade of medical thought is sent abroad through some one of them. There are more medical periodicals than medical schools, which are certainly too numerous for profit; and each journal, when closely examined, is often thought to be the exponent of a particular faculty interest.

This is unfortunate for the real dignity and scientific progress of medicine. Ultimately, however, the journals will diminish in number and improve in quality.

RESTORING CLUB FEET.—There ought not to be a remaining mal-formed foot seen in the streets. No division of modern surgery is more completely under control than bringing badly formed, distorted feet into the exact position nature designed they should have.

Dividing the tendons, and gradually remoulding the bones, is neither a very long, painful or expensive process. Next among the deformities quite as completely within positive control of art, are hare lips and distorted eyes. Were this intelligence waisted by the press, as it should be, as an act of special kindness towards the unfortunate, club feet, cleft lips and crossed eyes would all be returned to a good, sound, normal condition.

ECLECTIC MEDICINE.—From the public papers and periodicals of the West, notices of the eclectic schools, eclectic medicines, and the personal sparrings of eclectics, reach the peaceful shores of the Atlantic. There seems to be some discordant element in the composition, or such confusion and occasional uproar would not occur. If, however, they are the aggrieved party, the persecuted, and only one side of the story is rehearsed abroad, it ought to be known. In New England, there are as many systems of medicine, as rays in the solar spectrum; but no purely Western eclectic practitioners—none certainly who rout each other out of the sanctum, or accuse former bosom friends of being incompetent to save themselves from the bad effects of their own prescriptions.

MEDICAL LITERATURE.—The collected observations and experience of medical practitioners, when systematically arranged, constitute the literary treasures of the profession.

American physicians might contribute largely were it not for the business demands made upon them. They have done well; but with the immense amount of available talent which is known to exist in our midst, they should be encouraged to produce more distinct treatises on the various branches, and thus enhance the character, value and claims of native medical literature.

On examination of the catalogue of forthcoming publications, it is lamentable that so few on medicine are by native writers.

We are all under obligations to the great publishing houses for the re-production of excellent works from abroad; but it is obvious that American authors are best qualified to elucidate and prescribe for maladies peculiar to the climates where they occur.

Why does not some experienced man furnish a volume on *erysipelas*, and another on *rheumatism*? They occupy the thoughts of many, in regard to the proper kinds of treatment, as both are not only exceedingly common, but also exceedingly obstinate, resisting ordinary modes of medication.

The field is large, but the laborers are too few.

PUTTING ON OFFICIAL AIRS.—Rather than publish the communication of a correspondent, who intimates in strong terms that a few young medical men, acting in subordinate official stations, are very much wanting in courtesy and ordinary civility towards their superiors in age, standing, and mental acquirements, who are necessarily obliged to call where they ought not to be,—we prefer to attempt an apology for them.

It is quite natural for the inexperienced to feel that the weight of empire is on their shoulders, when first entering upon the responsibilities of business, even when acting inferior parts in the offices of life. If they forget to rise, invite a gentleman to be seated, or most significantly say *yes* and *no* to those who might do more for them at a breath than they could do to advance themselves in ten years, age will finally correct their bad manners. The mortifications they invariably suffer, by learning the fact, that their fancied prospects, as the world rolls on, are unexpectedly and mysteriously limited, by the recollections of some quiet somebody, whom they considered at a by-gone period, next to nobody, are a wonderful corrector of rudeness and empty airs. Old as the laws of civilization are, there are scores of persons in the midst of us, who seem determined to brave their way, regardless of the rules of good breeding, as though there was no truth in the ancient adage, that *soft words turn away anger*.

If, as intimated in the letter, medical gentlemen who trust to the assistance of partially-fledged young physicians to manage in their absence, lose both friends and funds by their brusque airs, they will unquestionably be disposed to apologize to those who have been aggrieved, and ever after employ persons of civil deportment.

Physicians, of all men, are presumed to be kind, gentle, and obliging. Their patronage in any community is measured, to considerable extent, by their exterior as gentlemen. An early cultivation of one's self, in order to do as every person has a desire to be done by, cannot be viewed as a waste of time, since we are mutually dependent on each other, throughout all departments of society. We are often compelled to submit to what we dislike. Our correspondent has only suffered once, but we earnestly implore him to forget and forgive.

MEDICAL LECTURES.—The season is approaching when gentlemen proposing to matriculate for lectures, should be selecting the institution they prefer to visit. Facilities for anatomical study are a consideration. Wherever the student establishes himself, if he follows the regular course of instruction from the different chairs, the term will advance him essentially in every department of an arduous, responsible, and poorly paid profession. An inquiry is often made by letter "Where would you recommend me to go?" And the answer is thus given, "To any of the regularly organized schools."

NEW BOOKS.—Many old books are far better than modern new ones. The first may possibly be original: whereas most of the latter are mere transcripts, —so arranged that it requires some experience to detect the primitive author in the pages of a plagiarist. It is a nice art to interweave the thoughts and suggestions of others with our own, so that neither are able to decide with certainty which belongs to either. Yet this is really the way of making a class of works which are sometimes ignorantly supposed to be evidences of the regular advancement of science. The only new laws are those enacted by the legislature. Nature has neither codified or revised hers. Still, philosophers speak flippantly about laws of which they literally know nothing; and propose theories which add blackness to darkness. Within the last thirty years, the number of treatises on the practice of medicine has multiplied exceedingly; but how much does the last in the series differ from the first? Not perceptibly in anything but names. New books, like new coins, attract attention at first; but the possessor very soon recollects the fact that they are worth no more than pieces that have been a long time in circulation.

IODINE WATER.—If any one, having a sufficient interest in the subject, will furnish the process for making an aqueous solution of Iodine, it would oblige those who have been in the habit of believing the chemists, who say "*pure iodine is completely soluble in alcohol.*"

The circular of Messrs. Anders & Fosdick, of New York, No. 3 Second avenue, announces that Dr. Henry Anders, a graduate of Rutsstuck University, Mechlenburg-Schwerin, discovered the problem, in chemistry, of dissolving this potent medicinal agent in water. There should be no secret in regard to a point that would give the discoverer a commanding notoriety among men of science.

Having received a bottle of the new article from the manufacturers, the question very naturally suggests itself thus:—What are the advantages actually to be derived from iodine in this form, over ordinary, well-established officinal preparations?

From the singular external changes produced on females, in the utter obliteration of the breasts by absorption, from a long-continued use of iodine, and the no less extraordinary effects on the other sex, in the partial derangement of organs essential to the perpetuity of the race, physicians have been particularly cautious in the administration of this article. Are there any counteracting influences to these well-known results, intermixed and compounded with the iodine water, so warmly recommended to be taken in cases of Scrofula, Tumor, Pulmonary Diseases, &c.?

Admitting the sovereign therapeutic energy of the new medicine, in the foregoing maladies, or others of equal magnitude, would not the patient find, in the sequel, the remedy as bad as the disease?

INGENUITY OF QUACKERY.—Were a tenth part of the ingenious effort made by regular medical practitioners in the line of their vocation, which empirics exert in exciting the imagination of those consulting them, there would be gratifying success attending practice. Some never trouble themselves to gain the confidence of patients. They are cold, austere, without sympathy, and as cheerless as icebergs. No hope is developed in the soul, and, consequently, a very learned physician may be an unsuccessful medical attendant. The enterprising quack, on the other hand, makes up in minute attentions and assiduity, what he lacks in knowledge; and, not unfrequently, makes cures and money too, by doing precisely what his superior scorns to do.

FREEZING PARTS BEFORE OPERATIONS.—Drawing teeth and some of the large operations of surgery are now performed after the part has been deprived of sensation by the application of the freezing mixture — common salt and ice, or chloride of lime and snow, in nearly equal parts. It is easily applied, and it is free from all the hazards that occasionally mark the administration of chloroform. After the mixture is removed, sensation is perfectly restored within a short time. The patient looks on while his limb is amputated, conscious of what is being done, but unmoved by pain. We should be glad to publish the observations of those who are making use of this new auxiliary power, for the purpose of disseminating the results.

PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS.—Be prompt, prudent and persevering, and business will follow of course. Those who never have any practice, ought not to have any. The reason why some physicians have no calls is because nothing could be had by calling. Many medical practitioners would have succeeded better in some other profession. The difficulty is always in themselves when their services are not wanted. When men are educated for pursuits for which they have neither tact nor taste, the community invariably discover the mistake, to the disadvantage of the individual. A physician must condescend to his patients, before he can ascend in public estimation.

NATURAL BONE-SETTERS.—One of the transmitted whims peculiar to some parts of New England, which descends from father to son, is a belief in the existence of natural bone-setters—whether they can read, write or reason, is of no importance. Nor is an acquaintance with the anatomical structure of the human body at all necessary in the estimation of their patrons. It is taken for granted that the natural bone-setter comes into the world mysteriously qualified to put out-of-joint bones in place, as a direct super-human endowment. One of the craft has been known to compete, successfully, with skilful surgeons, because the vulgar sentiment decided in favor of mystery instead of science and common sense.

A NATIONAL DISEASE.—Throughout North America the universal morbid appetite for patent medicines, is a regularly constituted disease. It is probably transmitted from parent to child, as insanity, scrofula, and nervous affections descend through families. To see a man or woman who never purchased a box of Brandreth's pills, or a bottle of the *Balm of a Thousand Flowers*, would be equivalent to seeing the fifth wheel of a coach. No such phenomenon exists.

Mothers usually commence with Sherman's Vermifuge Lozenges. Every suckling has worms, of course. But whether they have or not, it is judicious to commence drugging the little creatures early, by way of accustoming them to more potent articles, when their strength will bear them. Spring physic usually follows. It is a divine art to keep off sickness by seasonable doses of something that is good for the blood. At fourteen, young persons begin to purchase for themselves. The latest advertisement should always be a guide in the selection of patent medicines, on account of the respectability and responsibilities of parties offering them for sale. This is a great country—every one has a perfect inalienable right to kill himself with life-preserving nostrums.

SCARPA'S ACOUSTIC OIL.—An idea may be formed of the profits of trade in nostrums, by a statement of the following fact. It is said that a druggist in Boston paid the getter-up of an article advertised as a great remedy for deafness, two or three years ago, under the name of *Scarpa's Acoustic Oil*, ten thousand dollars, within a very short period. It consisted of almond oil, with the merest sprinkling of creosote. An ounce of the mixture might have cost two cents:—the selling price was three dollars! It was a great remedy to sell,—the restoration of a deaf ear was another matter. That is not all:—a regular physician, violently opposed to secret preparations and quackery in all forms, of course, was accused of pocketing the money. The slanderer's insinuation is abominable.

HOSPITALS.—It was a malicious sentence, that hospitals are institutions for aiding and assisting professional family aspirants into business. The man who uttered it would turn a fire worshipper for an appointment in one of them. He is fortunate who succeeds in the line of his ambition. Hospitals are the places to learn how to practise. The same necessity that led to their origin, does not now exist, because medical attendance may be had at the corners of the streets, without money and without price. Only a few out of the many are so silly as to pay a doctor's bill now-a-days. Those, therefore, who hold the rein in their own hands, may drive without fear of competition. Hospital officials, like a two-edged sword, act both ways. They get all the fame for managing marvellous cases in the wards for nothing; and all the fees outside, as a compensation for holding a position within.

WEALTHY PHYSICIANS.—Those in the receipt of the largest professional incomes are in London. A few receive enormous sums annually in that city, and, perhaps, more for personal medical services than any where else in the world. A court attendant, in France, is well paid, but fees, ordinarily, in Paris, fall far below those of London. Some of the wealthiest medical men known reside in America. Their wealth came to them by inheritance, and in no instance by their personal exertions, beyond a few matrimonial instances of a determination to secure a competency.

In most of the cities the medical men have collateral business, quite unknown as frequently as otherwise, to their nearest neighbors, by which their real accumulations of property are made. Some quietly deal extensively in real estate; others in stocks and manufactures, and many are special partners in pursuits widely different from that for which they were educated. If any of them become rich, it is by one of three methods, viz.:—inheritance, trade, or by marriage. The last is usually the most successful scheme of practice, and now reduced to a science.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 18.

John Fitzgerald 33 yrs, Edward L. Bean 2 do, Michael Leonard 2 do, Catharine Kirk 3 do, Helen Howland 22 do, Daniel Bogan 4 do, Mary Doherty 5 do, James Wilson 36 do, Michael Jeffers 27 do, R. Banman 40 do, John Carnes 45 do, Edward Welsh 31 do, John Devine Jr 6 do, Patrick Ganey 40 do, John Havlin 4 do, Ellen Russell 4 do, Amelia M. Scott 29 do, Annie M. Kent 41 do, Michael J. Plunkett 11 do, Delia Creighton 25 do, Mary Barry 18 mos, John E. Dowling 13 do, Wm. C. Long 12 do, Theodore Conley 2 do, Margaret McKay 8 do, Ellen Russell 5 do, Mary E. Taffey 1 mo, Wm. H. Boardman 2 days, child (male) of Thomas and Amelia Stanford 3 do, Daniel McDonald 2 mos, Ellen McCarty 6 do, Sylvanus F. Morton 69 yrs, Bridget Palmer, 30 do, Bridget Kearns 22 do, Mary O'Donnell 25 do, James O'Neal 23 do, Daniel Murphy 27 do, Eliza L. Green 63 do, Cora A. Rand 6 mos, Robert W. Mills 54 yrs, John Cook 49 do, Bridget Brooks 25 do, Susan S. Turell 4 do, Margaret Murphy 15 mos, child (female) of Henry and Mary Blood 5 do, George L. Butters 50 yrs, Mary Stewart 25 do, Joseph Fonseca 12 mos, Joseph Enser 7 do, Philip Doherty 14 do, Francis Mullen 11 do, Clark B. Hammond 19 do, Frederick Nickerson 8 do, Ellen O'Brien 2 do, Mary Brown 1 day, Alice A. D. Fuller 5 yrs, Dorcas A. Batchelder 27 do, George Dana 66 do, Francis Kingwell 20 do, Frances Seales 21 do, Margaret Kennedy 3 do, Dolly Bacon 83 do, Pauline Dubuc 26 do, James Martin 60 do, Patrick Pyncheon 2 do, Bridget McGrath 30 do, Ann Dimond 82 do, Moses H. Pate 2 do, Martha A. Burrige 6 do, Rachel Combs 67 do, David B. Ball 48 do, Clement W. Thaxter 2 do, Jasper H. Johnson 2 do, Julia Smith 37 do, Herbert J. Andrews 6 mos, Mercie L. Carnes 2 do, Charles W. Haskell 42 yrs.

DISEASES.—Apoplexy 2, congestion of brain 3, consumption 16, croup 2, cholera infantum 6, diarrhoea 2, dysentery 3, dropsy 2, infantile diseases 2, unknown do 7, scarlet fever 8, hooping cough 2, inflammation of lungs 2, pleurisy 2, suicide 2, teething 4, other diseases 1 each, 12, males 41, females 36: total 77. 55 were born in U. S., Ireland 16, other foreign places 6.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

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REFERENCES.

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John Clough, M. D., 94 Tremont Street,
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J. F. Stone, Esq., 8 Webster Bank Build-
ing, Boston.

B. E. Perry, Esq., 20 Court street, Boston.

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Boston, 3 Avon Place. 2—tf

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THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

NOVEMBER 5, 1856.

NUMBER 6.

HEREDITARY INFLUENCE, ANIMAL AND HUMAN.

[Concluded.]

As a counter-statement, let it be noted that, according to Girou, the farmers are more particular about the bull than about the cow when they want a good milking cow, for it is observed that the property of abundant secretion of milk is more certain to be transmitted from a bull than from a cow. We question the fact of the bull having greater influence than the cow, believing that in each case the property is transmitted according to direct heritage; but that the bull should be known to have any importance in this respect, is an evidence that the "vital organs" are not solely given by the female.

The result of Mr. Orton's researches proves that the male *does* transmit his qualities to his descendants; as a matter of fact this must be always distinctly remembered; but neither his researches nor those of his predecessors suffice to prove this transmission to be *absolute*, in the sense required by those who maintain that the male gives the *animal* and the female the *vegetative* organs; as well as by those who maintain that the male influence necessarily and invariably predominates in the animal, the female in the vegetative organs. Still it is important to know that by the pollen of flowers we can modify the tints, and produce any varieties of tulip, violet, or dahlia; important to know that we can also modify the plumage of birds, and the color of animals: it is important to know that the male qualities *are* transmissible. But for scientific rigor this is not enough. Before we can establish a law of this kind, we must be sure that the fact is constant and admits of no exceptions, or only of such apparent exceptions as may be classed under unexplained perturbations. Now daily observations, no less than recorded cases, assure us that the law is very far from being constant, that the female as unmis-

takably transmits her qualities as the male transmits his, and that any theorist who should reverse the current theory and declare the mother bestowed the animal system, leaving the vegetative to the father, would be able to make a formidable array of facts. Let us glance awhile at the evidence.

It is said the male gives the color, but the female does so likewise. A black cat and a white cat will have kittens which may be all black, all white, or black spotted with white, and white spotted with black. Every street will furnish examples. Isidore Geoffroy St. Hilaire speaks of a case under his observation, of a black buck and a white doe; the first produce was a black and white fawn; the second a fawn entirely black, except a white spot above the hoof.* Burdach, who had a brood of five: two black like the father; two gray like the mother; and one mixed. The same result is observed with respect to all other qualities. But perhaps the most decisive example we could quote of the twofold influence of parents is in the singular instance recorded by Buffon. The Marquis Spontin Beaufort had a she-wolf living in his stables with a setter dog, by which she had two cubs, a male and a female. The male resembled externally his father, the dog, except that his ears were pointed and his tail like that of the wolf; the female, on the contrary, resembled her mother, the wolf, in all external characteristics *except* the tail, which was the same as her father's. Here in one case, the father gave the external characteristics, in the other the mother, while the tail was in each case, as it were, transposed. But the marvel of this case does not stop here: the cubs manifested a striking difference of disposition, in each case *resembling in character*, the parent it did *not resemble in appearance* and in sex; thus the male cub, which had all the appearance of a dog, was fierce and untamable as the wolf; the female cub, which had

* "Diet. Classique d'Histoire Naturelle," x, 121.

all the appearance of a wolf, was familiar, gentle, and caressing even to importunity. Lucas records an analogous case. These hybrids are very instructive, because the wide differences in the aspect and nature of the parents enable us to separate, as it were, the influence of each. The wolf and the dog often breed together; and the following observations, interesting in themselves, will suffice to show the reader how much caution is necessary before drawing absolute conclusions from single illustrations. Valmont Bomare observed in the various hybrids of wolf and dog which came under his notice at Chantilly, a striking preponderance of the wolf over the dog; Marsch, on the contrary, observed in his experience a preponderance of the dog over the wolf; Geoffroy St. Hilaire and Pallas found the wolf to predominate; whereas, Marolle found the cubs remarkable for their gentleness and dog-like instincts, only recalling the wolf in their voracity and fondness for flesh. Girou found the preponderance to vary; sometimes the father, sometimes the mother, re-appeared in the offspring. If there were no other evidence, this would suffice to disprove the hypothesis of either parent contributing one group of organs, to the absolute exclusion of the other parent.

The same fact of twofold influence is shown in the transmission of deformities, such as extra toes, extra fingers, &c.: sometimes the male and sometimes the female is shown to preponderate, by the offspring inheriting the deformity of the male or the female. It is well said by Girou,* that "if the organization of the male was the only one which passed to the child, the child would resemble the father, as the fruit of the graft resembles the tree from which the graft was taken, and not at all the tree on which it was grafted." And what is here said of the whole organization, applies with equal force to any one system, such as the nervous or the nutritive.

Moreover, if the hypothesis we are combating be admitted—if the father bestows the nervous system—how are we to explain the notorious inferiority of the children of great men? There is considerable exaggeration afloat on this matter, and able men have been called nullities, because they have not manifested the great talents of their fathers; but allowing for all over-statement, the palpable fact of the inferiority of the sons to their fathers is beyond dispute, and has helped to foster the idea of all great men owing their

genius to their mothers, an idea which will not bear confrontation with the facts. Many men of genius have had remarkable mothers; and that one such instance could be cited is sufficient to prove the error both of the hypothesis which refers the nervous system to paternal influence, and of the hypothesis which only refers the preponderance to the paternal influence. If the male preponderates, how is it that Pericles, who "carried the weapons of Zeus upon his tongue," produced nothing better than a Paralus and a Xanthippus? How came the infamous Lysimachus from the austere Aristides? How was the weighty intellect of Thucydides left to be represented by an idiotic Milesias, and a stupid Stephanus? Where was the great soul of Oliver Cromwell in his son Richard? Who were the inheritors of Henry IV. and Peter the Great? What were Shakspeare's children, and Milton's daughters? Unless the mother preponderated in these and similar instances, we are without an explanation; for it being proved as a law of heritage, that the individual does transmit his qualities to his offspring, it is only on the supposition of *both* individuals transmitting their organizations, and the one modifying the other, that such anomalies are conceivable. When the paternal influence is not counteracted, we see it transmitted. Hence the common remark: "talent runs in families." The proverbial phrases, "l'esprit des Mortemarts," and the "wit of the Sheridans," imply this transmission from father to son. Bernardo Tasso was a considerable poet, and his son Torquato inherited his faculties, heightened by the influence of the mother. The two Herschels, the two Colmans, the Kemble family, and the Coleridges, will at once occur to the reader; but the most striking example known to us is that of the family which boasted Jean Sebastian Bach as the culminating illustration of a musical genius, which, more or less, was distributed over three hundred Bachs,—the children, of course, of various mothers.

Here a sceptical reader may be tempted to ask, how a man of genius is ever produced, if the child is always the repetition of his parents? How can two parents of ordinary capacity produce a child of extraordinary power? The answer must be postponed until we come to treat of secondary influences. For the present, we content ourselves with insisting on the conclusion to which the foregoing survey of facts has led, namely, that *both* parents are *always* represented in the offspring; and although the male influence is sometimes seen to preponder-

* "De la Generation," p. 113.

ate in one direction, and the female influence in another, yet this direction is by no means constant, is often reversed, and admits of no absolute reduction to a known formula. We cannot say absolutely, "the male gives such organs;" we cannot even say, "the male always preponderates in such or such a direction." Both give all organs, sometimes one preponderates, sometimes the other. In one family we see children resembling the father, children resembling the mother, and children resembling both.

This is the conclusion inevitable on a wide survey of the facts. It is equally inevitable *a priori*, if we take our stand upon the evidence of embryology; and as some readers prefer logical deductions to any massive accumulation of facts, we will ask them to consider the question from this point of view. Reproduction, in the vegetable and animal kingdoms, is known to naturalists under three forms. In the first, a single cell spontaneously divides itself into two cells. Here it is quite clear that the child reproduces the totality of the parent. In the second form, the process called "budding" takes place: the child here grows out of the substance of the parent, until its development is completed, and then it separates itself from the parent to live a free life. Here also the parent is reproduced in its totality. In the third form, a higher complexity of organization has led to a more complex and more special mode of reproduction; the parent gives off from its own substance, by what may be also considered a "budding process," a mass of cells, which as pollen and ovule, as sperm-cells and germ-cells, unite to develop into plants or animals. Here, again, there ought to be no doubt that the parents are reproduced; their offspring truly may be called "their own flesh and blood." Nor would the doubt have ever arisen, had not the great complexity of the organisms admitted the intervention of the Law of Variations, to which all dissemblances are due. But however such interventions may baffle our inquiries, the mind recognizes at once the truth of the proposition that sperm-cell and germ-cell are as much to be regarded in the light of reproductions of the parents, as the cells produced by spontaneous division are to be regarded in the light of repetitions of the parent-cell.

And here we may glance at an ingenious hypothesis which would explain the fact of all our organs being double, by the concurrence of both parents; so that the father will give one half, the mother the other half, the father the

right, the mother the left side;* "Cette idée ferait présumer notre corps est double, et que nous sommes composés de deux corps finis artistement adossés l'un à l'autre." This fact that all our organs are double — some primitively, others permanently — was first demonstrated by Serres, who in his very remarkable work on transcendental anatomy,† has given a rapid outline of this *Lex Serriana*, as Meckel calls it. In consequence of this primitive duality of all organs (the single organs being those in the median line, and formed by the fusion of two originally distinct organs), "l'embryon résulte de la réunion de deux moitiés d'embryon; l'animal unique, si l'on peut s'exprimer ainsi, est le produit de deux moitiés d'animaux." Serres would not, however, give any countenance, we imagine, to the hypothesis of each half being furnished by each parent; for the hypothesis is contradicted by the facts of the perfect resemblance as well as perfect symmetry of each side, whereas if one parent only gave one side, we should see realized in life the fantastic combinations sometimes seen at masquerades, presenting us with a figure, half of which wears the dress of a man, and half of a woman; or half of an Italian bandit, and the other half of a good peaceful shopkeeper.

It is now time that we should direct our attention to some of the perturbing causes, which mask the laws of transmission from our perfect apprehension. While proclaiming as absolute the law of individual transmission, while proclaiming that the parents are always reproduced in the offspring, we are met by the obvious fact of the offspring often exhibiting so marked a departure from their parents, being so different in form and disposition, that the law seems at fault. For instance, Gall speaks of a brood of wolf-cubs taken from their mother and brought up together; one was as gentle as a dog, the others retained the savageness of their species. We may also point to the fact of a man of genius suddenly starting up in an ordinary family; or to a thousand illustrative examples in which the law of individual transmission seems at fault. To explain these would be to have mastered the whole mystery of heritage; all that we can do is to

* Brouzet: "Essais sur l'Education Medicinale des Enfants." Paris, 1754. (Quoted by Lucas.)

† "Precis d'Anatomie Transcendante." Paris, 1842, p. 238. Dr. Lucas is in error when he attributes to Flourens the conception and demonstration of this important point. It is true Flourens himself claims it in his last work, "Cours de Physiologie Comparee." 1856.

mention some of the known perturbing influences.

Sir Everard Home mentions a striking case, which has become celebrated, of a thoroughbred English mare, who, in the year 1816, had a mule by a quagga—the mule bearing the unmistakable quagga marks. In the years 1817, 1818, and 1823, this mare again foaled, and although she had not seen the quagga since 1816, her three foals were all marked with the curious quagga marks. Nor is this by any means an isolated case. Meckel observed similar results in the crossing of a wild boar with a domestic sow; in the first litter several had the brown bristles of the father; and in each of the sow's subsequent litters by domestic boars, some of the young ones were easily distinguished by their resemblance to the wild boar. Mr. Orton verified this fact in the cases of dogs, pigs and poultry. Of the latter he says: "The so-called silk-fowl have certain marked peculiarities—a silky, or downy plumage, a black skin and face, black bill and mouth, black legs, and dark or even black bones; they have, moreover, a fully-developed tuft on the head, five toes, and are feathered on the legs and feet." Peculiarities such as these were invaluable for the experiment. He found the produce of a silk cock with a common white hen to be "twelve or fifteen chickens, the whole of which had the black skin, black mouth, and five toes of the silk cock—his external development. As to their plumage, I could only judge in the case of four, the rest having died in the downy state. Of these four, they have all the black skin and five toes of the silk cock, but strange enough, while three of them have downy plumage, the other has feathers."

Besides this very remarkable perturbing influence, we must also consider the phenomenon of *atavism*, or ancestral influence, in which the child manifests striking resemblance to the grandfather or grandmother, and not to the father or mother. The fact is familiar enough to dispense with our citing examples. How is it to be explained? It is to be explained on the supposition that the qualities were transmitted from the grandfather to the father, in whom they were *masked* by the presence of some antagonistic or controlling influence, and thence transmitted to the son, in whom, the antagonistic influence being withdrawn, they manifested themselves. As Longet remarks, "S'il n'y a pas héritage des caractères paternels il y a donc au moins *aptitude* à en hériter, disposition à les reproduire, et toujours cette

transmission de cette aptitude à de nouveaux descendants, chez lesquels ces mêmes caractères se manifesteront tôt ou tard."* Mr. Smith, let us say, has a remarkable aptitude for music; but the influence of Mrs. Smith is such that their children, inheriting her imperfect ear, manifest no musical talent whatever. These children, however, have inherited the disposition of their father in spite of its non-manifestation; and if, when they transmit what in them is latent, the influence of their wives is favorable, the grandchildren may turn out to be musically gifted. In the same way Consumption or Insanity seems to lie dormant for a generation, and in the next flashes out with the same fury as of old. Atavism is thus a phenomenon always to be borne in mind as one of the many complications of the complex problem. Very remarkable is the atavism exhibited by some of the lower animals, who bring forth young so utterly unlike themselves as to have been long mistaken for different species; while these young in their turn bring forth animals exactly like their ancestors. Here the children of one generation always resemble their grandfathers and grandmothers, and never their fathers and mothers.†

A third cause of complication is one which we propose to call "the potency of race or individual." Both father and mother transmit their organizations, but they do so in unequal degrees; the more potent predominates; just as, if you mix brandy with equal amounts of water, soda water, and ginger beer, the taste of the brandy will predominate more in the water than in the soda water, more in the soda water than in the ginger beer.

According to Rush (quoted by Lucas), the Danes, intermarrying with women of the East, always produce children resembling the European type; but the converse does not hold good when Danish women intermarry with the men of the East. Klaproth observes the same in the mingling of the Caucasian and Mongolian races. Girou, after five-and-twenty years' experience in the feeding of sheep, found this "potency" destroy his calculations. He fancied that, by means of his Roussillon sheep and the Merino rams, he could sooner arrive at the fineness of wool which distinguishes the Merino, than if he coupled the Aveyron sheep with the Merino rams; but he found that the Roussillon type resisted the Merino so energetically

* "Traite de Physiologie," ii. 133.

† See Steensturp on "The Alternation of Generations;" and Owen on "Parthenogenesis."

that, after a quarter of a century of successive crossings, it still re-appeared, whereas the Aveyron sheep had long ceased to be distinguishable from the Merinos. The same potency of particular species is noticeable in plants. Koelreuter is quoted by Burdach as having fecundated the *Nicotiana paniculata* with the pollen of *N. rustica*; and the hybrids thus produced were fecundated with the pollen of *N. paniculata*, but the plants resembled the *N. rustica*. On reversing this experiment, he still found the female *N. rustica* to have the preponderance; so that, cross the species how he would, the *N. rustica* showed most potency.

But although we thus see that Race has a marked preponderance, we must also remember that it is subject to the individual variations of vigor, health, age, &c. Girou sums up his observations with this general remark: the offspring of an old male and a young female resembles the father less than the mother in proportion as the mother is more vigorous and the father more decrepit; the reverse is true of the offspring of an old female and a young male. In fact, if we consider that the offspring reproduces the organization of its parents, and, consequently, the organization of *that particular period*, we see at once that age, health, and general potency of organization, must be taken into the account of complicating causes. This also will help to explain — but not wholly explain — the great differences observable in the same family: differences of sex, of strength, and appearance. At present, however, science can only take note of it as a “perturbing influence.”

Our survey of this great subject, brief though it has been, has enabled us to note four general facts, which sum up the present state of knowledge, and which must be steadily borne in mind in all inquiries into Hereditary Influence:

1st. Heritage is constant: it is a law of organized beings that the organization of parents should be transmitted to their offspring.

2d. The offspring directly represents both parents, and indirectly it represents its ancestors.

3d. The offspring never represents its parents with absolute equality, although it represents them in every organ. Sometimes one parent predominates in one system, sometimes in another, sometimes in all.

4th. The causes of this predominance are various, some being connected with “potency” of race, or individual superiority in age, vigor,

&c.; others being, in the present state of knowledge, not recognizable.

Leaving these facts without any hypothetical explanation for the present, let us pass on to a consideration of the meaning of the Law of Variation, which we have seen to be so perturbing an influence. Like produces like: that is the Law of Constancy. But we see it producing *unlike*, and the variation must have its cause. Development, whether taking place in a simple tissue or in the whole organism, must proximately arise from some alteration in the series of organic combinations. A cellular tissue would never develop into a nerve tissue, unless some new element were introduced into its composition. A whole dynasty of blockheads would never produce a man of genius by intermarriage with blockheads; the intermarriage must introduce “new blood.” There is no chance in Nature. If two parents produce a child which is unlike them both, this child is not an accident: the unlikeness consists in the new combination of old elements. The cipher which stood before the numeral, thus, 01, has been transposed, and we have 10 as the result. Nature transposes in this way. Out of several elements of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, in the same proportions, she will arrange substances so various as starch, gum, and sugar. We need not be surprised, then, if, with elements so complex as those of an organism, a great variety of combination is produced; and, far from marvelling because children sometimes are unlike their parents, the marvel truly is that they are ever like them.

The old theories could make nothing of these variations; they quietly ignored them. The once dominant, and still famous theory, of the “pre-existence of germs,” which lingers in the popular expression of the “oak being contained in the acorn,” maintained that the embryo is the animal in miniature. The early microscopists, observing the gradual appearance of the organs, jumped to the conclusion that the organs pre-existed in the ovum, and were gradually unfolded to view as they became larger. Indeed, when we see an egg by no means increased, either in size or weight, suddenly open, and a full-formed chick emerge, the idea that the chick was pre-existent in that liquid mass which once constituted the egg, seems plausible enough. Swammerdam and Malebranche pushed this notion to its logical conclusion, and declared that not only was the embryo a miniature of the adult, but the first created embryo of each species necessarily contained within itself all the germs of the

future race ; so that each generation included all subsequent generations. This is the famous *théorie de l'emboîtement*, which was advocated even by Cuvier. That Bonnet, Haller, and lesser men should have been seduced by such a theory, is not remarkable when we consider the state of knowledge in their days ; but after C. F. Wolff, Blumenbach, and Von Baer, had utterly refuted it, and replaced it by the sounder theory of epigenesis, to find Cuvier still giving it the sanction of his great name, is a point to be remembered in the history of opinion. At the present day, we believe no one of any authority maintains the theory of pre-existence. The microscope plainly shows us that, at first, the embryo is *not* like the adult animal in any respect ; the resemblance grows as development goes on ; the presence of one organ determines the presence of another ; and, in the earlier stages, we cannot tell whether the embryo is that of a fish, a reptile, a bird, or a mammal, much less what *kind* of fish, reptile, bird, or mammal. It is to the immortal honor of C. F. Wolff to have demonstrated the great law of epigenesis,* by which the parts of an animal are made one *after* another, and *out* of the other ; so that each organ may be considered as a secreting organ with respect to the others. Treviranus subsequently adopted this idea of each organ having, as it were, a secretory function with respect to the others ; and Mr. Paget has luminously expanded it in his masterly "Lectures on Surgical Pathology."

When it was believed that animals *pre-existed* in the germs of the original parents, the difficulty of accounting for variations, such as deformities and malformations, was either ignored, referred to "Satanic agency," or eluded by the convenient supposition that deformed germs also pre-existed. Still there were troublesome facts not to be so got rid of. There were hybrids, for example. No one could say that there were pre-existent germs which were half horse and half donkey, or half wolf and half dog, or quarter wolf and three quarters dog.

We will not, however, linger over such hypotheses, anxious as we are to glance at matters of more practical interest ; among them, the very important question of hereditary *insanity*. Every one is familiar with the fact of the transmission of this terrible malady, but not every

one is aware of the extraordinary resemblance sometimes manifested in the nature of the attacks, and their periodical recurrence. Moreau relates the case of a man, who greatly agitated by the events of the French Revolution, shut himself up in one room, from which he never stirred during ten years ; his daughter, on reaching the age at which he was attacked, fell into the same state, and could not be made to quit her apartment. Esquirol tells of a lady who in her twenty-fifth year went out of her mind after her accouchement ; her daughter was afflicted in the same way, at the same age, and under the same circumstances. We cannot here afford space for more illustrations ;* the two just cited will suffice to indicate the tragic fact, that insanity is not only transmissible, but may suddenly manifest itself in persons who have hitherto shown no predisposition to it. The fact forces upon every mind an awful sense of responsibility, when a parent or guardian has to decide on permitting a marriage where the "hereditary taint" exists. It is a subject which has recently been handled in four fictions : in the "House of Raby," in Miss Jewsbury's "Constance Herbert," in Holme Lee's "Gilbert Messenger," and in Wilkie Collins' "Monckton's of Wincot Abbey." The three first named have used it not only as a tragic pivot, but as a moral lesson ; and in so doing have taken the license of fiction to promulgate very absolute moral views, upon which it is our duty to make some remarks.

These writers all assume that the transmission of the malady is inevitable, and hence they insist on the duty of renunciation. No one with the "hereditary taint" is justified in marrying. He must bear his burden ; he must not compromise for selfish enjoyments the happiness of descendants. Were the problem really so simple as these writers make it, their moral conclusions would be indisputable. But artists are not bound to be physiologists, and are assuredly bad law-givers in such cases. As artists, they employ their permitted license in simplifying the problem of insanity to suit their stories ; but when they transcend the limits of Art, and moralize on their selected cases, placing them before the world as typical, they commit a serious error, and they teach questionable doctrine, because they teach it by means of fallacious facts. Let us be understood. If it were absolutely *certain* that a

* "Theoria Generationis," 1759 ; and in a more popular version of the same work, "Theorie von der Generation." We have never seen the first-named work ; the second we can commend to philosophic readers.

* Dr. Forbes Winslow might take up this topic in his valuable "Journal of Psychological Medicine" with good effect.

man whose family had the "hereditary taint" could not escape the terrible inheritance, the moral rule would be clear, the verdict against his marrying would be absolute. But happily this is by no means the case. The Law of Variation here intervenes. Vulgar observation confirms science in declaring this inheritance of insanity to be very *uncertain*. "La transmission héréditaire," says Burdach, in summing up, "ne s'étend, la plupart du temps, qu'à quelques enfans." In many cases the malady is not transmitted at all. That is to say, it is so neutralized by the influence of the other parent as not to manifest itself. Out of three children two may inherit the malady — or only one — or none. Are all three children to be debarred from marriage on the chance that one or all may be affected? But the difficulty is further complicated. The three children, let us say, are perfectly healthy, passing into manhood and womanhood without once indicating any trace of the disease; suddenly, in mid-life, the disease breaks out, — for we are never certain of its non-appearance. Again, the three marry, have children, and die, without manifesting any of the fatal symptoms of the disease: yet their children may all be insane, because the law of *atavism* intervenes to frustrate calculations.

With such facts before us, consider the straits into which we are driven by the novelist's verdict. Three perfectly sane people are not to marry because there is a possibility of their one day becoming insane, or of their children inheriting the grandfather's malady. The same difficulty meets us in the case of *consumption* and *scrofula*, two diseases equally transmissible and almost as terrible. Are all the families in whom the consumptive "taint" exists to be excluded from marriage? To say so would be to make marriage a rarity, since few indeed among English families could be found, in which no consumption has appeared during two generations. Such difficulties the novelist eludes. Yet in real life these difficulties must be met. For our own parts, while fully sensible of the responsibility, we frankly confess that we should hesitate before pronouncing against marriage, even when one of the lovers had already exhibited unequivocal signs of insanity or consumption. Nor is this said from any love of paradox; it is quite serious, as the reader will admit, when he considers that the probability of transmission to children is very *uncertain*, and is entirely dependent on the other parent. A man with tubercles already formed may marry one woman who shall

bear him children all perfectly healthy; whereas another woman would bear him children all inevitably doomed. It is entirely a question of organic combination; one parent's influence being neutralized or fostered by the influence of another. The same is true, if we take the case of a woman with tubercles marrying a healthy man.

Although everything depends on the constitution of the untainted parent, there is a further difficulty with human beings not felt with animals; we allude to affection, which does not spring up when bidden. You may pair your dogs and cattle according to theory; human beings must pair according to far other impulses. Nevertheless, the parent or physician who has to adjudicate in these delicate cases, may gain some guidance from general principles. We have seen that the predominance of one parent mainly consists in a superior potency which is derived from race, age, health, &c. Thus a young man in whom the hereditary taint is visible, might fall in love with a woman some few years his senior, who to superiority of age, might add that of belonging to a more vigorous race. There would be scarcely any danger in such a marriage. But reverse the condition — let the woman be younger and of a less vigorous race, and marriage would present such probabilities of danger that every means of prevention should be employed. At the best, our judgment can be given with great hesitation, for the laws of organic combination, on which parental influence depends, are as yet wholly unknown.

We must forbear entering upon the many interesting topics which the application of the laws of heritage suggest, and conclude this paper with a glance at the influence of these laws in the development of the human race. History is one magnificent corollary on the laws of transmission. Were it not for these laws, civilization would be impossible. We inherit the acquired experience of our forefathers — their tendencies, their aptitudes, their habits, their improvements. It is because what is organically acquired becomes organically transmitted that the brain of a European is twenty or thirty cubic inches greater than the brain of a Papuan, and that the European is born with aptitudes of which the Papuan has not the remotest indication. Mr. Herbert Spencer, in his very original and remarkable "Principles of Psychology," quotes the evidence of Lieut. Walpole, that "the Sandwich Islanders, in all the early parts of their education, are exceedingly quick, but not in the higher branches; they have

excellent memories, and learn by rote with wonderful facility, but will not exercise their thinking faculty ;” which, as Mr. Spencer truly observes, indicates that they can receive and retain simple ideas, but are incompetent to the more complex processes of intelligence, because these have not become organized in the race. A similar fact is noticed in the Australians and Hindoos. Nor is this wide difference between them and the European confined to the purely ratiocinative processes ; an analogous difference is traceable in their moral conceptions. In the language of the Australians there are no words answering to our terms, *justice, sin, guilt*. They have not acquired those ideas. In all savages the *sympathetic* emotions are quite rudimentary, and the horror which moves a European at the sight of cruelty, would be as incomprehensible to the savage as the terror which agitates a woman at the sight of a mouse. What we observe in the development from childhood to manhood, we also observe in the development of the Human Family, namely, a slow subjection of the egotistic to the sympathetic impulses. This has been overlooked, or not sufficiently appreciated, in the dispute about a Moral Sense. One school of thinkers has energetically denied that we are born with any Moral Sense ; another school has energetically affirmed that we are born with it. And of the two we think the latter are nearest the truth. It is certain that we are so organized as to be powerfully affected by actions which appeal to this “Moral Sense,” in a very different way from mere appeals to the intellect—the demonstration of abstract right and wrong will never move the mind to feel an action to be right or wrong ; were it otherwise, the keenest intellects would also be the kindest and the justest. What is meant by the “moral sense” is the aptitude to be affected by actions in their moral bearings ; and it is impossible to consider various individuals without perceiving that this aptitude in them varies not according to their intellect, but according to their native tendencies in that direction. This aptitude to be so affected is a part and parcel of the heritage transmitted from forefathers. Just as the puppy pointer has inherited an aptitude to “point”—which, if it do not spontaneously manifest itself in “pointing,” renders him incomparably more apt at learning it than any other dog—so also has the European boy inherited an aptitude for a certain moral life, which to the Papuan would be impossible.

“Hereditary transmission,” says Mr. Spencer, “displayed alike in all the plants we cultivate, in all the animals we breed, and in the human race, applies not only to physical but to psychological peculiarities. It is not simply that a modified form of constitution, produced by new habits of life, is bequeathed to future generations ; but it is that the modified nervous tendencies produced by such new habits of life are also bequeathed : and if the new habits of life become permanent, the tendencies become permanent.”* As a consequence of this inheritance we have what is called National Character. The Jew, whether in Poland, in Vienna, in London, or in Paris, never altogether merges his original peculiarities in that of the people among whom he dwells. He can only do this by intermarriage, which would be a mingling of his transmitted organization with that of the transmitted organization of another race. This is the mystery of what is called the “permanence of races.” The Mosaic Arab preserves all the features and moral peculiarities of his race, simply because he is a descendant of that race, and not a descendant of the race in whose cities he dwells. That the Jew should preserve his Judaic character while living among Austrians or English, is little more remarkable than that the Englishman should preserve his Anglo-Saxon type while living among oxen and sheep ; so long as no intermarriage takes place, no important change in the race can take place, because a race is simply the continual transmission of organisms. The Scotchman “caught young,” as Johnson wittily said, will lose some of the superficial characteristics, but will retain all the national peculiarities of his race ; and so will the Irishman. “We know,” says Mr. Spencer “that there are warlike, peaceful, nomadic, maritime, hunting, commercial races—races that are independent or slavish, active or slothful ; we know that many of these, if not all, have a common origin ; and hence there can be no question that these varieties of disposition have been gradually induced and established in successive generations, and have become organic.” This, indeed, is evident *a priori* : we have already seen that the instincts and habits, even the trifling peculiarities of an individual, have a tendency to become trans-

* “Principles of Psychology,” p. 526. In this work Heritage, for the first time, is made the basis of a psychological system ; and we especially recommend any reader interested in the present article, to make himself acquainted with a treatise in every way so remarkable.

mitted; and, what is true of the individual, is true of the race.*

It is owing to the transmission of incidentally acquired characters that every great movement in human affairs achieves much more than its immediate object. It tends to cultivate the race. How could that new, unheard-of feeling for the wives, widows, and orphans of soldiers, which so honorably distinguished the war just closed, have ever arisen, had not the sympathetic feelings of the race been cultivated during centuries of slow evolution? How could Englishmen manifest their sturdy political independence, their ineradicable love of liberty so strikingly contrasted with the want of that feeling in other nations, had not our whole history been one bequeathed struggle against the encroachments of governments? It is, however, needless to continue; wherever we look, in physiological, psychological, or sociological questions, we are certain to observe the operation of the laws of Hereditary Transmission.—*West. Rev.*

Feeding a City.—There are annually consumed in New York, 180,000 oxen; 12,000 cows; 550,000 sheep and lambs; 40,000 calves; 280,000 swine; about 600,000 turkeys; 200,000 tame and wild ducks; 1,000,000 of chickens, and fish oysters, and crabs beyond computation.

Freak of Nature.—Mary, a negro woman belonging to Dr. John H. Hundley, near Mooresville, Ala., gave birth on the 10th inst., to three living infants, two whites and one black.

Man and his Attributes.—The horse has eight times the strength of a man. Yet man holds the horse in subjection. The bull can toss the stoutest Goliath on his horns. Yet the whole bovine race bows its neck to the yoke which man imposes. Air and water, heat, cold and lightning, all seem to be his masters. Yet, he makes the winds his ministers, the ocean becomes his play-ground, the summer sun ripens all his harvest, the cold builds for him bridges and high-ways without cost, and the very lightning meekly travels along the wires, bearing his message of business or of love.

* M. Gosse, in a recently published "Essai sur les Déformations artificielles du Crane" (Geneva, 1855), shows that the forms artificially impressed on the skull during successive generations tend to become hereditary, and that, consequently, we must assign less value than has been hitherto assigned to those characteristics of distinct races which the forms of the skull have supplied

Proportions of the Human Figure.—Nature, in the composition of the human frame has so ordained that the face, from the chin to the highest point of the forehead whence the hair begins, is a tenth part of the whole stature; the same proportion obtains in the hand measured from the wrist to the extremity of the middle finger. From the top of the chest to the highest point of the forehead is a seventh. From the nipples to the top of the scalp is a fourth of the whole stature. If the length of the face, from the chin to the roots of the hair, be divided into three equal parts, the first division determines the place of the nostrils; the second the point where the eyebrows meet. The foot is the seventh part of the height of the entire frame; the cubit and the chest are each a fourth. The other members have certain affinities which were always observed by the most celebrated of ancient painters and sculptors and we must look for them in those productions which have excited universal admiration.

The navel is naturally the central point of the human body; for if a man should lie on his back with his arms and legs extended, the periphery of the circle which may be described about him, with the navel for its centre, would touch the extremities of his hands and feet. The same affinities obtain if we apply a square to the human figure; for, like the contiguous sides, the height from the feet to the top of the head is found to be the same as the distance from the extremity of one hand to the other, when the arms are extended. The standards according to which all admeasurements are wont to be made, are likewise deduced from the members of the body; such as the digit, the palm, the foot, and the cubit; all of which are subdivided by the perfect number which the Greeks call *teleios*.

Venom of a Toad.—It has long been disputed by naturalists, that the toad secreted a poisonous fluid.—Read this and give a rationale of the circumstance.—The *Dublin Medical Express* details a case which confirms the opinion that the toad can eject a venomous fluid from its mouth. A boy, aged six years, while throwing stones at a large toad, felt something spirted into his eye. He was attacked soon after with spasmodic pain in his eye, then with coma; at times he would try to bite every thing near him; at times he was in a state of apathy, and at times in a state of madness. On the tenth day the only symptoms were stupor and inability to speak, a condition which has lasted for two years since.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[For the Medical World.]

THOUGHTS ON FEVER.

BY H. G. BARROWS, M. D.

It has frequently been remarked, that little is known of fever. The subject is much enlarged upon in the books: various hypotheses are advanced, and technical names are indulged in to an almost unlimited extent, but when we have plodded through all, what more do we know about fever, than when we began our investigation?

True, we have crowded into our heads an extensive amount of symptoms:—we have been told the opinion of this, that, and the other medical author; we have been surprised at the number of technicalities that these authors have dug out from the ruins of the ancient temples of medicine; but, when all is done, what more do we know in regard to what fever *is*, than we did at the commencement? Verily, I believe but little.

It is undoubtedly the fact, that fever is the most common disease among us, and the system of medication that we pursue is, perhaps, more frequently unsuccessful than in any other disease that we are called to treat. The reason of this must be, that we do not understand this disease as well as we do others. We are not only told that fever is the most frequent of diseases, but that it assumes different forms and degrees, coming oftentimes like Hamlet's ghost, in very questionable shape. In its mildest and simplest form,* fever presents us with chilliness succeeded by increased heat of the skin; the pulse is rather more frequent than ordinary; the tongue is a little coated; and there is a general feeling of languor, and inability to make much exertion.

In a higher form, there is an increase of the heat and thirst; greater frequency of pulse; more foulness of the tongue; a greater degree of general debility; failure of the appetite; pain and confusion in the head; and disturbed rest at night.

In a more sudden and severe attack, there is at the commencement rigor and shivering; great prostration of strength; paleness of the face and whole surface; pain in the head, back and limbs; quick and small pulse; dryness of the mouth; loss of appetite and nausea, succeeded in a few hours by a hot and dry skin; full and frequent pulse; flushed face; coated and

dry tongue; increased pain, with restlessness, and intolerance of light and noise.

Authors also tell us, that all these symptoms are not to be expected in the same case; there is not any of them that may not be absent; but a number of these occurring at the same time, indicate the presence of fever.

Dr. Gallup also tells us, that the phenomena of fever are liable to be irregular, and admit of many modifications. This has been so much the case, that no invariable definition of fever has ever been made out by the most scrutinizing pathologist. There is not a phenomenon in the groups attempted, but what may singly be absent, whilst yet enough are present to show its existence.

The same author also declares, that the term fever is of very questionable import; it is liable to mislead the mind from the real condition of the morbid economy.

We are strongly inclined to ask the question,—whether there is in fact more than *one fever*? Are not more or less of the phenomena above quoted, present in the various *manifestations* of fever, which we and the books call *kinds*?

If the brain, lungs, or liver, be the organ most extensively involved, we denominate the difficulty brain, lung, or bilious fever. But, is fever affecting either of these organs, different in its real phenomena, from fever under other circumstances? If not, why load on technicalities, and mystify the subject?

What is the definition of fever? a certain author* defines it to be a disease characterized by an increase of heat, an accelerated pulse, a foul tongue, and an impaired state of several functions of the body. We like this definition, because we think it is true to nature and to fact.

The term febris, or fever, is from *ferveo*, to burn. Heat, then, seems to be a peculiar characteristic of fever.

We have remarked that the multiplicity of names attached, or prefixed to the term fever, has grown out of the prominence of a certain symptom, or symptoms. If, as one author has already expressed it, a fever exhibits, in the period of twenty-four hours, a cold, hot, and sweating stage, with an interval of comparative freedom from disease, we call it *intermittent*. If *bile* is discharged, or there is a general affection of the stomach, liver, and bowels, with yellowness of the skin, we call it *yellow*, *remittent*, or *bilious* fever, as the case may be.

* Gallup's Ins. Med.

* Hooper.

If the pulse is strong, quick, and full, and the sense of weakness not great, we call it *inflammatory*. If there is weakness, and much disturbance of the head and nervous system, we call it *typhus*. If there are marks of putridity, that is, if there be a very bad smell from the body and discharges, we call it *putrid*.

Now are, or are not all these closely allied? Are they, or are they not, convertible from one form to another? If they are closely allied, they certainly must be convertible.

Are these distinct *forms* of fever, or are they distinct *fevers*? If they are distinct *fevers*, then indeed are they distinct *diseases*.

Rather, are they not all *one and the same disease*, viz., fever, but presenting different phenomena? And are not what are called *eruptive fevers*, the same disease, viz., *fever*, only exhibiting an additional and peculiar phenomenon, viz., eruption?

These are questions of some importance to the profession, and ought to be settled.

Having defined fever, in the terms of accredited authors, we are led to ask another question. How does inflammation differ from fever? let us consult an approved author* for a definition of the word inflammation. This author tells us that the term is derived from the word *inflammo*, to burn; and defines inflammation as a disease characterized by heat, redness, pain, attended with more or less of tumefaction and fever. This last term, fever, to us seems to be tautology, for he has already defined fever and inflammation to be characterized by *heat*, hence fever is but a repetition of the term heat. But it will not do to be too particular, although it is important in the use of words to confine ourselves to the science of philology, which we define to be the right understanding and use of language. What then is the difference, if any, between fever and inflammation? Are they, or are they not, both alike, with the exception that fever is general, and inflammation local? Is not the same treatment resorted to in both cases, keeping in view, of course, the distinction between diffused or general, and specific or local affection?

Is not the antiphlogistic *modus medendi* employed in both instances? Is not the indication in both cases, to reduce fever, or inflammation?

But enough on this point, at least for the present. If what has been offered is calculated to throw any light upon the question, *what is fever*? We are prepared now to seek a

solution of the question, *where* is fever? In getting at the answer we shall be obliged to refer to authors for facts which are admitted on all hands to be true without debate.

In reviewing the structure of the human system, we find it possessed of a large number of tissues. And one author* tells us, that great discrepancies exist among physiologists, as to the number of tissues it becomes important to distinguish. Some have noticed many, others only a few. We can describe enough of them, however, to subserve the object we have in view. First then, we notice the Cellular tissue, which is formed of minute, whitish filaments, chiefly of gelatin. This tissue is very extensible, as is shown in great collections of fat, or of serum, and in hypertrophies. The sensibility of this tissue is of the lowest grade of animal tissues.

Next we notice the Fibrous tissue, which is very firm and dense, somewhat contractile, and rather elastic. In its normal state, it is said that this tissue does not transmit red blood, yet in a *forced* circulation blood is injected into it and it becomes the seat of high vascular action, and intense pain. This tissue has two adherent faces, and its connections are by the medium of the cellular tissue.

Then we have the Serous tissue, which is thin, smooth on one side, and adherent on the other. It forms a delicate lining over all the viscera of the head, thorax, &c. Through the subjacent membranes of the serous tissue, blood-vessels pass, and in a normal state, only the blood, deprived of its red particles, penetrates it; but when in an excited state of action, it is penetrated by red blood, and in some severe states of inflammation, transudes with the serosity, into its cavities or sacs. When excited in the instance of inflammation, the sensibility seems to be of an exquisite kind.

We next have the Mucous tissue, which is of very considerable extent, and high importance. It lines all the inner surfaces which have external openings. It everywhere possesses the instinctive, or organic sensibility; each portion possessing an instinctive sense peculiar to itself.

Then we have the Dermoid tissue, which acts an important part in the economy of the system, and scarcely inferior to that of the mucous. It is thickly beset with red capillary vessels, and these intermixed with a dense tissue.

Then we have the Muscular tissue. By

most authors this is called a simple tissue, yet many other tissues enter into the composition of muscles, while we have a principal reference to their contractile fibres.

Two sets of nerves pervade their entire texture, one from the spinal cord, the other by the arteries, from the system of involuntary nerves.

Then we have the Parenchymatous tissue, involving glandular functions. These glands consist of an artery, vein, nerves, and an excretory duct, embraced in their conglobate bodies.

Then we have the Nutritive tissue, the Osseous tissue, &c., &c.; but enough has been said of the tissues, and as their definitions have been drawn from the best authorities, they will undoubtedly be admitted as correct without debate. Let it however be borne in mind that all these tissues are supplied with a greater or less amount of nerves.

But, says the objector, where is the seat of fever? If you know what it is, let us hear.

In reply I would say, I know where *you* say it is: you affirm that it is in the *blood*, but before I accept this affirmation as *truth*, I wish to ascertain whether your declaration is true to nature and to fact.

~~You say, fever is in the blood.~~ Let us examine. Let us see what the best authors tell us in regard to the circulatory system.

The circulatory vessels are those which carry the blood to the different parts of the body, and return it from the same parts to its general reservoir, the heart. Those which perform the former purpose are styled arteries, and those designed for the latter, veins.

The arteries are thick, strong, cylindrical tubes, possessing a power of pushing forward their contents, by which means an alternate contraction and dilatation takes place, which occasions that peculiar action which we term the pulse. By this, the arteries are distinguished from the veins in the living body.

The veins return the blood from the different parts, and generally accompany the course of the arteries.

Thus much for the circulatory system in part. Now let us see what equally good authorities tell us about the nervous system.

We find that the motion and sensation of the different parts of the body, depend so much on the nerves, that when the principal nerve of any organ is cut through, or very much compressed, the sensation and functions of that organ are completely destroyed.

Every part of the body, therefore, owes its

sensibility to the nerves which it possesses: and all the different organs, from the most minute to the most considerable of their motions, are performed by means of the nerves.

Besides these general properties, the nerves possess some particular powers, for it is through their medium that the actions of the senses are accomplished. Thus, on the nerves of the eye, and of the nose, the senses of seeing and smelling depend; for, the nerves being destroyed, the senses no longer exist. To the powers of the nerves, therefore, every function of the body must be attributed.

Thus far then we find, that the tissues, to which I have already alluded, and the veins, and arteries, are supplied with nerves to a greater or less degree, and upon them we depend for sensation and motion.

Let us now look to accredited authorities for an expose of the blood.

The common appearance of this fluid is familiar to every one. We speak of the blood circulating in the veins and arteries. In the long circulation of the arteries, it circulates rapidly, but slow in the returning veins.

The free circulating blood contains nearly all the proximate and ultimate principles of the solid tissues; the gelatin, however, in very small proportion.

The blood has not, as far as we can learn, any thing in common with the nervous tissues in respect to its vitality, only as it may receive vascular impulsion from these.

As to the *vitalization* of the blood, we have too much evidence to be resisted, of this being the fact. It goes to the formation of tissues; it coagulates; under certain circumstances it forms membranes in morbid exhalations, &c., but good authority* tells us that it is a vitality of the first degree, by which we understand him to mean, as in other instances, the lowest or vegetative.

But I must here ask a question: has the blood life? I do not mean chemical life, or life in any other sense than that of the popular one of that term. Life implies sensibility, or sensation: has the blood either of these? does it feel? or is it susceptible of pain? surely no.

What then is it, in our system, that receives impressions of pain, and transmits them to the sensorium? Most surely the nerves; and here, we affirm, is the seat of fever.

Take for instance, the forearm or leg; you may have the blood under your control, which as you contend is the seat of fever. Let me

paralyze the nerves, and then see if you can, by any means, get up either fever or inflammation.

But you say perhaps, the globules of blood passing rapidly in the circulation, and from some cause being partially obstructed in their passage, produce irritation which results in fever. But what is irritated? the nerves, of course. What irritates the nerves? The blood in its obstructed circulation. Granted; the blood, then, being the cause of fever, cannot be fever itself, for logically the *cause* of a thing cannot be the thing itself; hence, if obstructed circulation be the cause of fever, the fever, which is the effect, cannot be seated in the blood, as authors contend. And again, if the nerves are paralyzed, the blood may pass with a horse power force through the veins and arteries, and I defy you to cause inflammation or irritation.

If this reasoning be correct, (which if it be not I trust some one will show it,) what must be the fact? Why, I submit, that *fever* has its seat in the *nervous*, and not in the vascular system. And indeed does not the *modus medendi* of the books confirm my statement, and overthrow their own theories? How do they treat inflammation? with antiphlogistic remedies. How do they treat fever? with antiphlogistic remedies. Why does the practitioner give Dover's powders, and other opiates, in fever? Is it not to allay nervous irritation and excitability? Is not the force of his remedies directed to effect the nervous system, to soothe it, and take off nervous irritation?

How is it with regard to a burn of any severity? does it not almost immediately give rise to nervous irritation and fever? And to what point do you direct your treatment, but to the allaying of this nervous irritation?

If the *nerves* in the burned part were paralyzed, you might burn until doomsday, if it were possible, but you could produce neither fever nor inflammation.

What, then, is the result of this view of the case? The same, surely, as in that which we have already noticed; that fever is situated in the nervous, and not in the vascular system.

According to the best authorities, the indication in the treatment of fever is to relieve nervous irritation, which is done by means of proper cathartics, diaphoretics, and perhaps diuretics, and by opiates and antispasmodics. These, they tell us, if anything can, will assist the *vis natura*, and all curable cases will yield to this *modus medendi*.

These thoughts on fever and inflammation are submitted, with all due deference to the

opinions of others. If am in error, I trust some one will show it; and until they do, I feel justified in settling down upon these principles as being the true theory, and in framing my practice accordingly.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NO. IV. BY WILLIAM M. CONNELL, M. D.

Mental Excitement—Its Effect on the Body—Blanches the Hair—Vain Ambition—Fastidious Hearers—Meddlesome Parishioners—A City Call—Hope and Disappointment—Failure of Success—Trouble in the Parish—Dismissal—Variety of Preaching—Anxiety for his family—Poverty—A True and a False Ambition.

Mental *excitement* and *anxiety* are prolific sources of ill health. Under these terms, we mean to include ambition, and every kind of mental excitement arising from professional duties, and the wants and cares incident upon providing for the comfort and education of a family. Upon investigation, we shall find these to be the cause of ill health much more frequently than is generally imagined. It cannot be otherwise, if we duly consider the effect which the mind produces upon the body—as when, fear, or grief, or anger, blanches the countenance with paleness, or reddens it as though the blood would burst from every pore; as when, in a single night, preceding an execution, it changes the color of the hair from a beautiful black, to gray,—a change produced in Mary, Queen of Scots; and, also, in the adventurer, seeking gold at our modern Eldorado, on the Pacific, when he acquired much by hard and long toil in the mines, and staked and lost the whole, in an evening's game, and retired, not to sleep, but to *wake*,—retired a *young* man, and arose, the next morning, a *gray old man*. We have some striking facts in our possession, demonstrating these sudden changes in the color of the hair, in that land of fortune-hunting and shadow-chasing. Is it then any wonder that the mind diseases the body?

If such changes may be suddenly induced by strong emotions, is it at all surprising, if weeks, and months, and years, of those anxieties and cares, which cluster thickly around the path of clerical life, in these modern times, should sensibly affect the health of such incumbents? It would be surprisingly strange, if they did not operate in a very injurious manner.

"Ambition! powerful source of good or ill."

We look for this, in the statesman, the hero, the emperor; in a Cæsar, an Alexander, a

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

Napoleon. But, surely, this unholy fire will not burn in the church of Christ! Will not its sacred waters extinguish its unhallowed flame? Would to Heaven, it were so! But all church history and Christian experience demonstrate the contrary.

"Man must soar —
Not kings alone.

Each villager has his ambition too;
No *Sultan* prouder than his fettered slave;
Slaves build their little *Babylons* of straw,
Echo the proud *Assyrian* in their hearts,
And cry, 'Behold the wonders of my might!'

The dispute among the immediate disciples of the Saviour, "who should be the greatest," indicates that they were not free from unhallowed ambition. A little later in the history of the church, we hear, that, "Diotrephes loved to have the pre-eminence." Some have even dared to imagine that the sin by which "Lucifer fell," introduced into the church popes, and many other hierarchs, who have not so much "served God's heritage," as they have been *served of it*: and, it is possible that, just in proportion as ambition has existed in the church, has been the tendency from simple gospel-purity towards the papacy, through all the ascending grades. Be this as it may, (respecting which, we have no disposition to affirm positively,) none can doubt but that ambition has often been a "ruling passion," in the human breast, and not altogether extinct in the clergyman. We may, therefore, suppose it sometimes produces its bad effects upon his corporeal system.

We will suppose a clergyman, settled in a small country parish. He "knows the state of his flock," for it is "a little one." He has pleasant friends, and those who love him: some almost idolize him. "If it were possible, they would pluck out their own eyes and give them to him."

But still, life is not all sunshine; and, he is exposed to many little annoyances. Neither men, nor women "look" solely "to their *own* things; but, also, on the things of others." One thinks his wife's bonnet a little too gay, for the pastor's lady; or, her shawl too dashy; or, her gown too rich; or, the daughters are too extravagant; or, the sons are not brought up to labor. A "little matter," by a slight assistance from the imagination, "kindles a great fire."

The people do, and say things very innocently about their minister, as they feel that they have a right to him and his family. They are all impressed upon the parish for their bread, and can are would it not exercise a guardian care

over their expenditures? Would they not be culpable, if they manifested no concern about that, in which, they are so much interested? If not, this is the reasoning of Uncle *Good-care*, and Aunt *Watchful*, and her *Nieces*.

Little meddlings of this kind, the pastor, and, especially, his wife, (she not having been settled over the parish) do not always bear with becoming meekness. "The field," says he, "is the world." There are other portions of this great vineyard. Why should I always remain "pent up" here? The salary is small. The garden is but "a little one." Men judge of the talents of a man by the number of the houses in the town where he lives. Great men are called to cities, and populous towns. These are the "sunny places of Zion." Multitudes attend upon their ministry.—The masses fly to hear them, "as clouds, and as doves to their windows." They become the centre of great power, and, often, ascend from the nadir to the zenith of the profession; receive large presents; are attired in rich vestments, and, on sabbath, in silken surplices, and preach from marble pulpits.

Brother——has been called thither. He was my class-mate, a man of medium stature. I could measure intellect with him; scan the classics; comprehend Newton; analyze Butler; find flaws in Payley; read Hebrew and Chaldee; round periods, and speak in public, as well as he. In the language of the good old man of *Uz*, I can say truly, "*I am not inferior to you.*"

Thus prompted by ambition, and harassed by the annoyances common to this evil world, he *reasons*, instead of being satisfied with "food and raiment," and "learning in whatever state he is, to be content." He now casts about to get a call from some large town or city. Such a door opens; indeed, such doors *often* open; and, when they shut, it is only for a season. Such congregations are not diffident, and soon pass their sage judgment upon all the wares in the market.

"They can tell, in half a minute,
What's out of fashion, and what's in it."

Their disposition to judge of the qualifications of a clergyman, is generally, in an inverse ratio to their ability.

They are of a peculiar cast, and need a peculiar man. This man and that man may answer for other places, but will not do for them. Send him out to the West, or off to the Indians. He will do good there. But *we* want a different man; one who can build us up, stand up like others around us, and, who is

a little superior to them, and, finally, one "*who can pay our debt.*" We love the gospel, and would never say, under any circumstances, "our soul loatheth this light bread," *but*, it makes a wide difference to us in what kind of a dish it is served up.

Our ambitious clergyman now gets a cousin, or a friend, to offer his name, as a candidate, to the deacon, or elder, whose office, being of the *standing* order, always entitles him to a loud voice in the introduction of a candidate, and the selection of a new pastor. "The lot, being cast into the lap" of the deacons, session, or committee, the name of our applicant comes up at the portals of fame. Discussion ensues. One doubts; another fears; till, at length, things grow climacterical. The *recommendation* finally decides the point. See what it says: he is just *the* man. He was made *for the place*, and *the place* was exactly designed for him; learned, wise, energetic, of prepossessing appearance, graceful, charming. All that fancy could desire, or imagination conceive, meet in him. He is "sent" for. He now feels almost sure that fortune is going to smile upon him. It is a long road that never turns. "Doubtless, he is the man." Forebodings of occupying a wider sphere, or of larger usefulness, and more extended influence, had long hung about him.

"Sequar vestigia rerum."

Why must he be doomed to toil through the academy, the college, and the seminary, and then,

"—To fix him down
For life, in some unsettled town?
There cull his texts, and till his farm,
And do no good, and little harm."

He selects the best of all those which our fathers (when as yet iron horses, and steaming ships, and speaking wires were not) were wont to call *saddle bag* sermons.

It was written in his most palmy hours, when the body was not oppressed, the girl in the kitchen, the good wife in the sitting-room, and the baby asleep. The intellect was not jaded, and "thoughts came," without call, "like spectres," of their own accord, "from the vasty deep." With such a "scrip," carefully revised, and re-touched, and legibly written, he flies, as "on the wings of the wind," to the metropolis; delivers his message to an audience, most of whom had come together, (not to *worship God*),—to hear a new candidate.

Perhaps he is disappointed, and has the mortification to find that, in the estimation of the audience, *he is not the man*. "Happy, thrice, and four times happy" for him, if it be

so: for, though a defeat, in such an attempt to soar, may cause chagrin, and "take aback," the inflated sails of his earthly ambition, yet it is much better for him than it would have been to have succeeded—better than to have entered the new port "*pleno velo.*"

This failure troubles his mind. It may thus make him sick. Still, it may prove a sickness tending to health, for success might have been fatal to him. If he is a *Christian* minister, he will learn from it to "cease from man;" learn that meek, unobtrusive, noiseless piety, is of more value than "the praise of men." The great Head of the church may have designed this to deliver him from the "sifting of Satan." But it would not be strange, if, in passing through the ordeal, he should find himself "weak and sickly."

We will select another example, where the former was, when he first preached to the Metropolitan congregation. He succeeds—makes a clean sweep and carries all before him. The audience exclaim, "This is our man—we must have *him* at all events. Such sentences! Such elegantly rounded periods, so eloquently expressed! How *engaged*! Did you see the perspiration cool down his cheek? Oh! if all ministers were like him, "the kingdom of heaven would soon come."

He comes—is settled—takes up his abode in the city, and soon finds, if he has not mistaken his calling, he *has* mistaken the people.

For a few Sabbaths, perhaps, months, when it is known that he will preach in the *morning*, the house is filled. His sermons are admired. The "birds of passage" flock thither from all quarters, there to be snugly housed, till a more propitious spring dawns upon some other congregation in the gift of a more bright and shining luminary. In a word, as long as he is *new*, he has crowded houses.

"Where Paul himself oft preached,
Would scarcely fill a pew."

In every large city, there are enough of this *migatory* class to fill a house whenever there is a new and popular preacher.

Soon the "beaten oiled" sermons are used up; cares and duties have multiplied so thickly that there is no time, and but little disposition, to *beat* more. All seems well; and he "settles upon his lees," more and more, as time progresses. It is "like people, like priest." He disturbs their slumbers but little, and they leave it to *him* to manage the *religious* matters.

Thus affairs remain for a while. But time changes all things, and men's feelings vary. All is as "a valley of dry bones, very dead,

and very dry." So soon as some begin to look around them, this discovery is made. They begin to talk about a *change* of minister: first, only in whispers, to a chosen few. Then, louder, augmenting, like the Roman poet's description of *fame*. Some wish to compromise, and advise to settle a colleague. But a torrent has started, that cannot be stayed. Like "*Report*" of old,

"First, small with fear, she swells to wondrous size,
And stalks on earth, and towers above the skies:
Swift is her walk, more swift her wingéd haste,
A monstrous phantom, horrible and vast.
Beneath her plumes, the various fury bears
A thousand piercing eyes and listening ears,
And with a thousand mouths and babbling tongues
appears."

He falters more and more, as they clamor louder. He becomes anxious; can neither eat, nor sleep. The current undermines him; and he finds those who professed to be friends, joined hand in hand with his enemies. His heart breaks, and his nervous system becomes shattered. The crisis comes. He cuts the knot. The tie of pastor and people is severed, and, with disappointed ambition and a sad heart, a broken constitution and an empty purse, he goes out, like the itinerating "Levite" of old, "to seek a place where he may sojourn."

Sometimes, also, health fails from another cause. The pastor has long triumphed. His word has been law, till he has become really the Pontifex Maximus, the ruler of the church, and the dictator of his peers. At length, the cord, by too much stretching, breaks. The parish refuse their allegiance, and his peers "break his yoke from off their neck." The loss of power and influence reacts upon him, till it breaks the "earthen vessel," and disease lays him aside. Meekness and humility might have saved him in health and happiness.

On the other hand, disease is sometimes induced by great popularity. His activity wears him out—he dies upon the chase with his armor on. As he is popular, he must preach almost incessantly. Everything, in his hands, goes upon the "high pressure" system. He lives constantly in a state of highly excited feeling. He must have the "wind" to shake the mountains and rive the rocks; the "earthquake" to move the world's foundations, and the "fire" to consume the forests. That spirit, once powerful, when heard in "the still, small voice," will not chime in with his noisy machinery. He has yet to learn that "bodily exercise profiteth little." He has forsaken the good "old paths" of the fathers, when "beaten oil" was brought in to light the sanctuary *twice*

on the Sabbath, and no more; and has introduced overmuch preaching and exhorting.

He cannot but be anxious about his family, who must eat and drink to live. He must "provide" for them bread and clothing, or come under the scriptural censure of being "worse than an infidel"—a severe censure, but one which many poor clergymen find it hard to escape. He must educate his children. He must be liberal. To do all this, and more, he has no income but his salary. He can be no lawyer, stock-jobber, broker, or mechanic. From every field of gain, the pastor is excluded, and properly excluded, by his clerical duties. If his salary does not supply the wants of his family, then, he must either "dig," or "beg." He may do something at "digging," if he have the "garden," or "farm," formerly spoken of; "to beg," he is ashamed, and his people ought to be ashamed to have him. He belongs to that "tribe" which "has never had any inheritance among their brethren," and have always been poor; or, so generally so, that if there is a rich man among them, he is an exception to the class, and, having become the "steward" of earthly "goods," he finds the admonition often repeated, in calls upon his means, which the apostle gave to Timothy, "be ready to distribute; willing to communicate."

Of all the trying scenes that meet the eye of the philanthropist, few are more heart-rending, than to see a clergyman in feeble health, with a needy family, and a sick wife, cast upon the world just as he has passed the meridian of life. He needs a double portion of "Abraham's faith."

In every parish, both in city and country, a vast amount of labor devolves upon the pastor. He must marry the living, and bury the dead—preach, "in season and out of season"—visit—in a word, be everywhere, and do anything that is honest.

All these anxieties and labors soon break him down.

In all the cases of clerical ill-health which have come under my treatment for the last twelve years, (and they have not been few,) nine-tenths of them have originated in over-tasking the mind,—in anxiety and solicitude—in parish troubles—in struggling with poverty, while striving honestly to support a dependent family, and in being driven from place to place. Happily, the good man has faith in God and a hope beyond the grave, or he would be "of all men most miserable."

Let no one think from the preceding remarks that we are opposed to a holy ambition. We

advocate an inextinguishable zeal in the Master's service. There is a holy, a pure, and an unholy and impure ambition. Paul had the former, when he "labored more abundantly than any other apostle." Whitfield had the same, when he crossed the Atlantic to preach the Gospel in this country. Many good men have had it. Henry Martyn, that eminent missionary, had more than an earthly ambition. His eye was fixed upon a higher reward. A heavenly impulse had taken possession of his soul. His ambition was to lay honors at the feet of Jesus; to consecrate his life to the enlightenment of pagan nations.

Alexander and Napoleon are examples of the latter, or unholy ambition. They sacrificed thousands of lives, and millions of dollars, to obtain imperial earthly honors; while Paul and Martyn laid down their lives for the glory of Christ and the salvation of the heathen world. No doubt there are now many clergymen who have this holy ambition, and we commend it; and if there is no other, the "bow has been drawn at a venture," and "the arrow" will hit nobody.

BREECH-PIN OF A GUN IMBEDDED IN THE FACE.

BY JAMES N. FRAZER, M. D., M. E. C. S. E.
OF ST. JOHNS, NEWFOUNDLAND.

On the 14th of October, 1848, William Roberts (of Brigus, Nfld.) aged 30 years, by occupation a fisherman, of large frame and robust constitution, sustained (whilst at Labrador) a very serious injury of the face by the bursting of a gun. His nose and right cheek were severely cut and contused, and the whole face completely blackened. Violent inflammation, with great swelling, supervened, and he continued in a state of insensibility for three days. When restored to consciousness he complained of most excruciating pain in the face, which continued unabated for three weeks; and great noise in the head, which lasted for six months. Three weeks after the injury he arrived at Brigus, and then for the first time consulted a medical gentleman, who, however, from the inflamed and cedematous condition of the whole face, could not possibly form a decided opinion as to the precise nature of the injury. The patient was put under medical treatment, and was unable to leave the house until March, 1849; and was then only able to walk a short distance; a

constant foetid purulent discharge escaped from the right cheek and nostril. In May, 1849, the wound in the cheek completely healed over, but the discharge continued from the nose. In June he went to the summer fishery, but from his debilitated state could work but little.

The wound in the face remained closed until November, 1854, when an opening formed near the right *Ala Nasi*, through which a purulent discharge, with a quantity of powder and rust, escaped. On the 2d of January, 1855, he was suddenly seized with alarming hemorrhage from the right nostril, the blood being quite florid, and escaping in a full stream, when another medical gentleman was sent for. The bleeding continued more or less from one until four o'clock, P. M., when it ceased; but recurred every eight or ten days until April of the same year. Since then there has been little or no hemorrhage.

During the whole of the foregoing period the patient suffered from severe head-aches,—sometimes complained of dimness of vision in the right eye, and occasionally of pain in that organ. The sense of smell was completely lost—his appetite varied—sometimes being very good, at other times extremely bad; he subsisted almost entirely on fluids—altogether his general health became seriously impaired.

In May, 1855, he came to reside in St. John's, and consulted several medical gentlemen, but obtained no relief. In August following, the pain in the face became much more intense than it had been since the occurrence of the accident. An abscess formed in the right cheek, and a copious discharge of purulent and sanious matter, together with more powder and rust, followed. After which the pain only occurred occasionally.

He applied to me for advice on Tuesday the 17th June, 1856, stating that his face had been injured nearly eight years previously by the blasting of gunpowder, and made no mention of a gun having burst in his hands until after the operation (about to be described) was performed. He informed me that he had undergone different kinds of treatment, and applied various remedies to the face, without deriving the slightest benefit therefrom. On examination I found the right *Malar* bone considerably enlarged—the right side of the face a little swollen; and a *cloaca* existed in the right cheek, situated nearly opposite the upper border of the *Ala Nasi*. Having passed a probe into this opening I detected, what I at first supposed to be a large piece of necrosed which could be slightly moved. As he could

not open his mouth more than a quarter of an inch, I failed in ascertaining the state of its interior. I examined the nasal cavity with the speculum, but discovered nothing abnormal.

As the man's health was rapidly giving way under the irritation and constant discharges to which he was subjected, I advised him to submit to an operation, to which he most willingly assented. On Thursday the 19th June (two days after I first saw him) I proceeded to operate, assisted by Dr. W. C. SIMMS. The patient having been put under the influence of chloroform, I made one incision from the upper border of the right *Ala Nasi* extending across the cheek towards the prominence of the *Malar bone*, and a second beginning at the commencement of the first, and extending downwards towards the angle of the mouth, and retracted the flap thus formed, when it became obvious that the cause of so much suffering was not diseased bone, but *metal*. After considerable difficulty I succeeded in extracting (what is almost incredible) the *breech of a gun!* the presence of which had never been suspected. The patient was only sensible of the last two or three effects at extraction, and although there was no hemorrhage of any consequence during the operation, we did not, during its latter part, induce complete *anaesthesia*, fearing that blood might find its way into the *trachea*, and cause suffocation.

The piece of metal weighed a little more than *four ounces*, and was quite oxidized. The transverse portion measured in length 1 1-2 inches, in breadth 5-8ths of an inch at one part, and 1-2 an inch at its narrowest part—its thickest portion measured 5-8 of an inch. That portion of the breech which is screwed on to the stock measured in length 2 6-8ths inches, and in breadth 5-8ths of an inch. The screw measured in circumference 2 5-8th inches.

It now only remains for me to state so far as I can, the position occupied by this foreign substance, and the subsequent progress of the case.

The superior *Maxilla* was evidently fractured over the *Antrum Highmorianum*; the transverse portion of the breech, with the greater part of the screw passing into that cavity, became embedded there; and a large opening was formed between the *Antrum* and right *Nasal Fossa*. The long part of the breech, or that portion which is screwed on to the back of the stock, passed backwards between the under surface of the *Zygomatic Arch* and the *Coronoid process* of the inferior *Maxilla*, its edge resting on the *Alveolar processes* of the

superior *Maxilla*; and its extremity extending nearly as far backwards, I imagine, as the lower part of the *Temporal* surface of the *great wing* of the *Sphenoid* bone, its edge, near the extremity, being in close contact with the external plate of the *Pterygoid process* of that bone. Such, I think, must have been pretty nearly the position occupied by this singular intrusion.

No inflammation followed the operation, and since its performance the patient has been almost wholly free from pain.

On removing the breech the cavity appeared quite black, and for a few days a dark purulent discharge, together with small pieces of rust, escaped. Healthy granulations then sprang up, and the parts rapidly contracted. Now (July 4th) the cavity is nearly filled up, and the external wound almost closed. The action of the lower *Maxilla* is slowly improving, and he has quite recovered the sense of smell. The only after treatment consisted in the administration of one or two doses of aperient medicine; and the constant application to the sore of *pledgets* of lint moistened with cold water. In a few days the man will, I think, be quite able to resume his usual calling.

I have no comment to make on this case—it speaks for itself; and appearing to me to be one of the most extraordinary on record, I conceive an account of it cannot fail in interesting your readers. Its publication, therefore, would much oblige. This case has been sent to the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, and may have been already published in Scotland.

FLOATING FACTS.

Hemorrhage from Bite of a Rat.—A child eighteen months old died in New York, from the bite of a rat. It was bitten on the scalp while sleeping, and a physician who was called, was unable to stop the flow of blood which followed.

Disease of the Heart.—This is the term which covers various organic and functional derangements of the heart itself or its immediate appendages, such as the pericardium or aorta. The ossification of the aorta is evidence of the decay and running down of the clock-work of the system. Although it is something which should never attack one till he is well advanced in years, yet of late it has become common, as well as paralysis, in middle age and youth. Are we all living too fast, and hastening the period of life?

Wearing a Silver Plate.—An impression seems to be general, out of the pale of the profession, that when a person has been trepanned, which means removing pieces of the skull bone, in consequence of a fracture, that the opening is covered by a thin sheet of silver, over which the scalp is drawn, and that ever after that plate is worn, to protect the brain. Were a piece of metal or any other foreign material thus inserted, it would become a prodigious source of irritation, not to be endured. No such operation is ever performed. The integuments thicken, the orifice through the bone partially diminishes, and in that way nature provides for the exigency of the case in her own and the best way the injury can be repaired.

Reptiles of Texas.—Texas is the paradise of reptiles and creeping things. Rattle and moccasin snakes are numerous; the bite of the former is easily cured by drinking raw whiskey till it produces intoxication; but for the latter there is no cure. The tarantula is a spider, with a body about the size of a hen's egg, and his legs five or six inches long and covered with long coarse black hair. He lies in cattle tracks, and you never see him move out of his path; his bite is absolutely certain death, and he never gets out of any one's way, but can jump eight or ten feet to inflict his deadly bite.

Then there is the centipede, furnished with an unlimited number of legs, each formed with a claw, and each claw inflicting a separate wound. If he walks over you at night you will have cause to remember him for months to come, as the wound is of a particularly poisonous nature, and is very difficult to heal. The stinging lizard is a lesser evil, the sensation of its wound being likened to the application of a red hot iron to the person; but one is too thankful to escape with life to consider these evils annoyances. But the insects! flying, creeping, running, digging, buzzing, stinging, they are everywhere. The horned frog is one of the greatest curiosities, but perfectly harmless. Chameleons are innumerable, darting over the prairie with inconceivable swiftness, and undergoing their peculiar change of color of the object under which they may be.

Cannibalism.—A Chinese Junk, called the Fui Goon, with a crew of thirteen men, was on the 2d of January thrown upon the island of Andaman, of the Nicobar group, when five of the men were seized by the natives, torn to pieces, and eaten.

Hospital for Priests.—The Pope has established in Rome an infirmary for sick and infirm priests. All priests, of whatever country, who may be afflicted with sickness during their visit to Rome, will there find all the comforts which their state may require, and members of the Roman Clergy will find an asylum in old age and poverty. After a ten years' residence in the Holy City, the priests of all countries will have the same privileges as the Roman Clergy. The insalubrity of the Campagna is notorious, and during the months of July and August, the heat becomes completely tropical.

A Colonization Physician.—Dr. J. H. Snowden, a colored physician, a native of Boston, who was medically educated by the Massachusetts Colonization Society, and attended lectures at the Dartmouth College, and also at the Berkshire Medical Institution, is now in Liberia, in the service of that Republic. In a recent letter, dated at Greenville, Sinon County, near the Boutah tribe, he writes as follows:—"There is less of sickness and distress from hunger than at last dates, though many are yet suffering. I continue to furnish medicines when it will be of any service, keeping a strict account of what is given out, in the hope that by-and-by some will be able to repay the Society. I trust I shall not incur censure for the course I have pursued in this matter, as by so doing I get a most excellent practice and experience.

My family are doing very well, and are contented—not to say perfectly happy. They are too fresh from home easily to forget or do without many of their habitual comforts—nor is it my wish that they should, to any great extent, as it involves necessarily a deterioration from that standard of civilization, without which Liberia will always remain semi-barbarous. As to myself, I am to say, that placed in a position of my own choosing, and engaged in a profession congenial to my tastes, I am ready and willing to make many sacrifices, so that my family do not suffer thereby."

Cure for Rattlesnake Bite.—P. Prettyman, M. D., of St. Louis, Missouri, writes thus:—"Take the yolk of an egg, put it in a teacup, and stir in as much salt as will make it thick enough not to run off, spread a plaster on and apply it to the wound, and I would insure your life for a sixpence. The subscriber has tried the above remedy in a number of cases, and never knew it to fail."

Hæmatosis.—The quantity of air received at an ordinary inspiration, without any effort at all, and when the body and mind are tranquil, is about one pint. Considering eighteen respirations to take place in one minute, about eighteen pints of pure air are necessary for sustaining healthful life during that period. One minute of healthful life cannot be enjoyed without about eighteen pints of pure air being diffused over the capillary net-work of the lungs. The quantity requisite for an hour of health will thus be 1080 pints. And to continue the calculation, one day's healthful existence, 25,920 pints, or no less than 60 hogs-heads must enter the lungs; and this is allowing but one pint for each inspiration, and but eighteen inspirations for each minute.

In the human body the blood circulates once in $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes. In $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes all the blood contained in the system traverses the respiratory surface. Every one, then, who breathes an impure atmosphere $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, has every particle of blood acted on by the vitiating air. Every particle has become less vital, less capable of repairing structures, or of carrying on functions: and the longer such air is inspired, the more impure it becomes.

Appetite of Genius.—Socrates, Plato, Agathon, Aristophanes, and others of the most celebrated Greeks, drank wine to a surprising extent; and Plato says, in his *Symposium*, that Socrates kept sober longer than any. Tiberius was so much addicted to this vice, that he had frequently to be carried from the Senate-house. Ben Johnson delighted in copious drafts of Canary wine, and even contrived to have a pipe of that liquor added to his yearly pension as poet-laureate. The fine intellect of Coleridge was clouded over by this unhappy propensity. Montaigne indulged in sherry. The otherwise unexceptionable morality of Addison was stained by this one error. Richard Steele, Fielding and Sterne shared the prevailing taste for hard drinking. Mozart was no exception to the rule. Churchill was a very intemperate man; and Hogarth gave a ludicrous immortality to the satirist's love of porter, by representing him in the character of a bear with a mug of that liquor in his paw. Tasso aggravated his mental irritability by the use of wines, despite the entreaties of his physicians. During his long imprisonment, he speaks gratefully in his letters of some sweetmeats with which he had been supplied; and after his release, he relates with delight the good things that were provided for him by his

patron, the Duke of Mantua—"the bread and fruit, the fish and flesh, the wines, sharp and brisk, and the confection." Pope, who was somewhat of an epicure, when staying at the house of his friend, Lord Bolingbroke, would lie in bed for days together, unless he heard that there were to be stewed lampreys for dinner, when he would forthwith arise, and make his appearance at table. Dr. Johnson had a voracious liking for a leg of mutton. "At my Aunt Ford's," he said, "I ate so much of a leg of mutton, that she used to talk of it." A gentleman once treated him to a dish of new honey and clouted cream, of which he partook so enormously, that his entertainer was alarmed.

Quin, the famous actor, has been known to travel from London to Bath, for the mere sake of dining upon a John Dory. Dr. Parr, in a private letter, confesses to his passionate love of hot boiled lobsters, with a profusion of shrimp-sauce. Shelley was for many years a vegetarian; and in the notes to his earliest edition of *Queen Mab*, speaks with enthusiasm of a dinner of "greens, potatoes, and turnips." Ariosto was excessively fond of turnips. He ate fast, and of whatever was nearest to him, often beginning with the bread upon the table before the other dishes came. Being visited one day by a stranger, he devoured all the dinner that was provided for both; and when afterward censured for his impoliteness, he only observed that "the gentleman should have taken care of himself." Handel ate enormously; and Kitchener relates of him that whenever he dined at a tavern he ordered dinner for three. On being told that all was ready as soon as the company should arrive, he would exclaim: "Den bring up de dinner prestissimo—I am de gompany!" Lord Byron's favorite dish was eggs and bacon; and though he could never eat without suffering from attack of indigestion, he had not always sufficient firmness to resist the temptation. Laplace, the great French astronomer, would eat spiders as a relish. Linnæus delighted in chocolate; and it was he who bestowed upon it its generic name of *Theobroma*, or "food of the gods." Fontenelle deemed strawberries the most delicious eating in the world; and during his last illness used to exclaim constantly: "If I can but reach the season of strawberries!"

St. Louis, Missouri, Academy of Sciences.—President, — Engelman, M. D.; Vice President, Hiram A. Prent, M. D.; Benj. F. Shumard, M. D., and Wm. H. Tingley, M. D., Secretaries.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

The queen has directed letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal, appointing Sir Thomas Nicholas Redington, Mr. Robert Andrews, one of her Majesty's Counsel, Mr. R. Wilfred Skeffington Lutwidge, Barrister-at-Law, Mr. James Wilkes, and Dominick John Corrigan, M. D., to be Her Majesty's Commissioners for the purpose of inquiring into the state of the Lunatic Asylums and other institutions for the custody and treatment of the insane now existing in Ireland, and also into the present state of the law respecting Lunatic Asylums in that part of the said United Kingdom.

A Congress of homoëopathic medical men is to meet at Brussels on the 23d, and the most eminent homœopathists of Europe are expected to take part in the proceedings.

At Mansfield, Ohio, a spiritual medium has ingeniously met the demands of those crazy-headed men and women who find pleasure in being cheated. One D. M. Cook advertises Dr. Franklin's Spiritual medal! Its efficacy is surprising! It is a star, worn on the forehead about six hours a day. These are his words:—Pulmonary Consumption, Spinal Affections, Female diseases, (however hopeless,) and, in short, all diseases can be warranted cured when present with the medium, for the several fees of fifty to three hundred dollars, as the condition of the disease may be.

No case can be warranted where the age exceeds fifty. Persons sending for the Medal and Prescription, must state their age and leading symptoms, as well as the chronic character of their complaint.

When cases are warranted, no remittance is required under three or eighteen months, as the disease may be; otherwise strictly in advance.

Medal and prescription, either present or absent,	\$10.00
Every subsequent prescription,	2.00
Board and Lodging per week, from	\$3.00 to 5.00

A Mrs. Mettler, also of Ohio, advertises *Pulmonaria, Neutralizing Mixture, Healing Ointment, &c.*, for which cash must be paid in advance. This is her declaration:—

"The history of these medicines is too generally known to Spiritualists to render its detail necessary for their information. It is sufficient to state that they were originally suggested to Mrs. M. by her guardian spirits, and were prepared by her under their direction. They are in general use throughout the New England States, and are there prescribed by

many eminent physicians. From all the information which the agent has been able to obtain, he is convinced that these spiritual remedies are surpassingly efficacious in the restoration of health to those physical systems which are not placed beyond recovery."

This actually out-generals the State of Massachusetts, which has heretofore been considered the focus of all kinds of isms.

Hospital Accommodations in Boston.—A sensible writer in the Evening Transcript, of Oct. 24th, says:—

The public hospital accommodations in Boston fall far short of those afforded in most other cities of equal population; and, while it is not proposed to create a general hospital for the sick, it is believed that a "Surgical Infirmary" would add another and an important link to the circle of our charities. The income of the Dispensary for the past year has been about \$4,800; and this has furnished medical aid and medicines to all who needed and have asked for them, in a population of one hundred and sixty thousand souls.

Instead of smothering the Massachusetts General Hospital with wealth, why not commence the organization of a new one? Besides meeting an exigency, it would afford another class of surgeons and physicians ambitious to be distinguished in the line of their ambitions, who can never hope for a position otherwise.

A Dr. R. F. Fellows, of Buffalo, has been arrested for robbing letters in the post-office of that city.

Those medical gentlemen whose literary taste prompts them to inquire what there is publishing and to be published both here and in Europe, would find all their questions answered and their curiosity gratified, by subscribing for the American Publisher's Circular, which may be ordered by mail—at No. 3, Appleton's Building, New York.

Dr. Bennett Dowler, that indefatigable medical philosopher of New Orleans, whose industry and physiological researches have given him an extensive reputation, has communicated to the New Orleans Delta, a letter from Prof. Rafn, of Copenhagen, giving an interesting account of the annual meeting of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries. The King of Denmark presided, and gave an account of the royal vaults under the church of Ringsted, in Sealand, with an account of the discoveries on opening of the tombs of King Valdemar the Great, Queen Sophia, Princess of Russia, and Beengierda, Princess of Portugal.

Dr. J. P. Screven has been triumphantly elected mayor of Savannah, Georgia.

Dr. Antry, of Seguin, shot a Mr. J. W. Carson, dead, recently, in an affray.

Cases of yellow fever have appeared at Houston and also at Galveston, Texas; no great alarm, however, was manifested by the people.

There is a singular dearth of new medical publications in press. It would be well to reprint a few old ones, to meet the ordinary demand for good professional books.

Mr. Hayden, that unfortunate individual, suffering intensely from an extraordinary malformation, having been born without a bladder, is now in Boston. He subsists principally on the bounty of physicians, to whom he exhibits himself, by travelling over the country. He went to Europe for the same purpose a year since. His case is beyond relief from the resources of surgery. Both ureters open externally, keeping up a perpetual excoriation.

A tabular chart of all the muscles of the body, with their origin, insertion and use, has been carefully prepared by Dr. Arthur H. Burnham, to facilitate the progress of medical students. Originality is not claimed for anything beyond the foregoing statement. The dissecting room is the place to suspend it.

A man named Church visited Staunton, Va., with a load of corn from Pendleton. He is 82 years old; and his mother, aged 107, and his father, aged 112 years, are both living.

Dr. Richard, a physician and surgeon of Paris, had the good fortune to accompany the scientific expedition recently fitted out at Cairo, Egypt, under the auspices of Said Pasha, to discover the source of the Nile. A. M. Clagne, of New Orleans, went as photographer.

The Austrian government has created a Palæographic school, and attached it to the ancient University of Padua, and given the management to Dr. Gloria. He is a famous hunter up of old things, and a very fit person, therefore, to have charge of the new institution.

Madame Ida Pfeiffer, the celebrated Prussian traveller, who visited Boston in 1855, is about visiting Madagascar. A committee of the British Association made her a grant of twenty pounds, to assist in making researches in the natural history of the island, and Prince Albert sent her ten more.

No tidings have been had of the intrepid traveller, Dr. Middleton, since last March, when he was at Tétte, on the river Zambesi,

three hundred miles from Quillimane, on the East coast of Africa. Physicians are distinguished for their perseverance as travellers, and have the preference, it seems, in the estimation of European societies, which send off exploring expeditions to unknown regions.

M. Luzenko, director of the Museum at Kertch, and the equally well known archæologist, Dr. Suel Jeff, have actually found the catacombs of the Scythian kings, in a hill, filled with countless treasures in works of art, of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and fictile wares.

Dr. Whitehead, of Norfolk, Virginia, by his intrepidity, recently saved the life of a lady, who was evidently threatened with assassination.

The learned Dr. Tully, formerly a professor in the Medical Department of Yale College, Conn., now residing at Springfield, Mass., is laboriously devoted to the publication of his Pharmacology, — which appears in monthly numbers. It would be creditable to the whole medical profession of this country to send in their names as subscribers. It is very certain that the intrinsic merits of the enterprise are not appreciated, or they would all have been on the list of patrons long ago.

Dr. A. M. Bureaud Riofrey, the author of a volume on the curability of phthisis and scrofula, — "*Curabilité de la Phthisie et des Scrofules appuyée sur des preuves authentiques*," who visited Boston a few years since, has paid the debt of nature. His excellent work, published at Paris in 1839, is worthy of being translated and republished in this land of consumptives.

Some medical gentleman of leisure ought to furnish a memoir of the professional life of the late distinguished and venerable Dr. John Collins Warren, of Boston, one of the surest and safest surgical operators New England has produced. The late celebrated Dr. Nathan Smith, of New Haven, Conn.; Dr. Physic, of Philadelphia; Dr. Twitchell, of Keene, N. H., and Dr. Warren, were never surpassed in this country.

A memoir is also required of Dr. Dudley, the greatest lithologist of this country, — if mere operations, and successful ones too, give a reputation. He resided at Lexington, Kentucky.

A pamphlet of eighty pages, giving an account of the proceedings of the American Institute of Homœopathy for 1856, exhibits the affairs of the society to be exceedingly prosperous. Samuel S. Guy, M. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., is treasurer.

A Boston physician is said to have a work in preparation for the press, on Syphilis. There is talent, learning, and leisure enough in the city to have half a dozen admirable professional works every year, from sources that would insure immense circulation.

It is said that one of the medical journals now published at Louisville, Ky., is to be removed to Philadelphia. Transplantation may prove as beneficial to a periodical as to some kinds of plants.

Dr. S. G. Perkins's valedictory to the graduating class at the fifty-second Commencement of Castleton Medical College, Vt., is a valuable literary performance. Why don't some college which is waning on account of the stereotyped dulness of those professors who would destroy the reputation of the Sarbonne itself, were they attached to it as lecturers, have sufficient energy to throw off the burden and take a man like Dr. Perkins into fellowship?

Dr. Underhill, of Croton Point, N. Y., is in the receipt of a large yearly income from the sale of grapes. He finds the masses take his luscious fruit with more gusto than they swallowed drugs, and the profits are a thousand fold better.

Why don't the physicians in the country, generally, stock their grounds, however small or ample, with fruit trees? The produce of a quarter of an acre, carefully cultivated, would soon convince them that Dr. Underhill, besides being a provident utilitarian, is a model philosopher.

Dr. Adolphus A. Hexamer is a candidate for Alderman in the Fifth Ward, New York. It is a post without honor, and labor without pay, — in which experience has shown that the incumbent goes up as a rocket and down like the stick.

Dr. Kane has declined an invitation from the citizens of Philadelphia to partake of a public dinner previous to his departure for Europe. The Doctor's health is quite feeble.

P. M. Crane, M. D., M. C. Greene, M. D., J. F. Jarvis, M. D., F. Minot, M. D., C. D. Homans, M. D., S. J. B. Alley, M. D., Geo. H. Lyman, M. D., M. C. Keep, M. D., and S. H. Keep, M. D., are on the district committees of that excellent institution, the Boston Provident Association, of which J. P. Reynolds, M. D., is Secretary. A multitude of physicians, not yet appropriated, would be efficient officers of other charities, because they know, from personal intercourse with all classes of people, who is most needy and deserving.

A large number of building lots belonging to the estate of the late eminent surgeon, Dr. John C. Warren, located at South Boston, were sold at auction lately, — bringing an amount of money which many a medical man would consider quite sufficient to make him comfortable for life; and yet it was not a tithe of his great property.

The wealthiest physician in the New England States belongs to Boston. — His possessions came by inheritance, — which is a convenient way of being made rich, in these hard times, when it is difficult to contend with quacks for business, and, worse still, to get paid for professional services.

Dr. Tome's abridged edition of the American Japan Expedition will soon be on sale.

The largest pears of which we have any record, were shown at Newark, N. J., by Dr. I. M. Ward, who raised them at his chateau, on the old upper road to Elizabeth. They are the kind known as the Duchesse d'Angouleme, the largest of which balanced two pounds and three and a half ounces on the scales, and measured one foot and three and three-quarter inches around its greatest circumference. It may be easier to raise pears than patients in New Jersey. In Massachusetts it is easier to raise patients than pears.

Mrs. Dr. Farnsworth, of Cleveland, Ohio, advertises herself as a *test medium*, "by the various modes of rapping and tipping." She, moreover, announces herself from Boston.

Dr. J. L. Bledhu, of New Orleans, has succeeded in applying gallinipper to perform all the objects hitherto only accomplished by the leech. A dozen of these insects are equal to six leeches, and placed on the desired spot will at once commence to suck blood in the same way, and with far less trouble, than the older institutions.

A life of the once, and perhaps still celebrated chemist, Gay-Lussac, has appeared in Paris.

Thirteen medical officers of the Piedmontese army died in the Crimea.

There was a large assembly of physicians and naturalists at Vienna in September.

Accession of M. D.'s. — From twenty-six medical colleges in the United States there graduated last year about 1,300 doctors.

Boston Society of Natural History. — President, ———; Vice President, Chas. T. Jackson, M. D.; S. L. Abbott, M. D., Corresponding Secretary; B. S. Shaw, M. D., Recording Secretary; N. B. Shurtleff, M. D., Treasurer.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 5, 1856.

STUDY AND PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY.—At the last anniversary meeting of the State Medical Society, May 28th, 1856, John G. Metcalf, M. D., of Mendon, Mass., read an elaborate paper on the *Study and Practice of Midwifery*. Several statistical tables are introduced, which will be found convenient to those in pursuit of the class of facts which he has collected. Table 1st, is on the age of mothers when married; 2d, when delivered; 3d, comparisons of ages when delivered, at Dublin, Boston and Mendon; 4th, whole number of pregnancies; 5th, duration of labor; 6th, comparison of the duration of labor in American with that observed in British practice; and 7th, presentations.

With table 8th, are presentations of the vertex; 9th of the face; 10th, frequency of presentations of the face; 11th, of the face to the pubis; 12th, of the face to the pubic presentations; 13th, shoulder presentations; 14th, presentation of the arms; 15th, frequency of presentations of the superior extremity; 16th, mortality, and mode of delivery in presentations of the superior extremities, &c.

Our object in specifying, thus far, the topics embraced in this very exact statement, is to show that Dr. Metcalf has really produced a distinct work on the history of a certain number of cases, under almost every conceivable form of presentation known to practitioners. But it is not a practical treatise, and therefore will not be sought for by the profession. It is a reliable and permanent record, that will be consulted by future writers on obstetrics. It has no popular cast or character, and it is obvious it was not intended to possess either, since columns of figures and dry details, such as make up one hundred and twenty-two octavo pages, could not be an animating subject at an hour when several hundred medical gentlemen from all parts of the Commonwealth knew that a hot dinner was ready for them.

Dr. Metcalf is a sound-minded man, exact in his statement, indefatigable in business, an excellent physician, kind-hearted, and a staunch friend of the Society. Had he been ambitious to amuse the grave assembly for half an hour, no one could have succeeded better. Preferring to leave a permanent memorial of his researches into the science of statistics, as connected with one particular branch of medical practice, the dissertation to which these observations refer has been produced, and to it has been prefixed the title of *Study and Practice of Midwifery*.

That very restless atom of humanity who manifested his impatience while the paper was being read, and frequently made audible criticisms to a sitting neighbor, — declaring he saw no connection in it, no harmony, nothing to excite enthusiasm, — might very appropriately take the following lines to himself, the ori-

gin of which, on a remote occasion, testified the poet's severity :—

"The critic's eye, that microscope of wit,
Sees hairs and pores; — examines, bit by bit,
Howiparts relate to parts, or they to whole.
The body's harmony, — the beaming soul, —
Are things which ————— shall see, —
When man's whole frame is obvious to a flea."

MARSH'S RADICAL CURING TRUSS.—A pamphlet emanating from No. 24 Maiden Lane, New York, descriptive of an improved truss, is accompanied with an explanation of the parts involved in hernia and prolapsus uteri, so plain that persons of a prurient curiosity may be gratified to their hearts' content. It is all true, but is such truth to be spoken at all times and in all places? The respectability of those who bear witness to the value of the instrument, some of whom are Bostonians, capable of appreciating every line of advantage which it may possess over hundreds of other contrivances for the same object, induces us to ask, who can show us one of them? Years ago it was supposed the Rubicon had been actually passed in truss-making, and nothing more remained to be attempted as an improvement. However, we are open to conviction, and will give any reasonable assistance towards diffusing the particular utility of Mr. Marsh's invention, if it is really meritorious. All the radical cures have been generally conducted under the care of a skilful surgeon.

STUPID LECTURERS.—What you write, Dr. Q—, is certainly true, that some of the medical schools carry more ballast than cargo, when a place is occupied by one who represents more dollars than ideas. This is one of the dead weights which several institutions are carrying, just as the Old Man of the Sea bestrode the shoulders of Sinbad the Sailor, and they can't shake them off. But your communication will not be published, because the evil is apparent to others as well as yourself, and hints would not correct the error. How do we know that you have not a design to seat yourself in the same chair if one of the stupid was ousted? As to the suggestion touching concours, no doubt it is a proper way of discovering talent. Under that fair system of making a medical professor, men of distinguished qualifications would be brought into a field of activity, whose merits, now unknown, would give lustre to the place, instead of the common reflex action of having the place give lustre to tarnished mettle. Many evils are tolerated, Dr. Q—, which appear to be beyond correction. This may be one of them. Nothing would be more ridiculous than appealing to the profession. What on earth can they do? Those who pay the price have the article. That is a rule of trade. Having no acquaintance with the faculty, and never having examined the college when in that State, we frankly say, — the paper contains too many personalities, without questioning the stupidity of which you complain.

HISTORY AND STATISTICS OF OVARIOTOMY.—Instead of becoming a wholesale patron of a re-published English work, for annual distribution among the fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the first part of which may be obsolete when the last numbers of the series are out of press, how much it would rebound to the honor of the Society to publish the writings of its own members. It would encourage native talent and lead to researches and literary undertakings of which all would be proud.

A prize essay by George H. Lyman, M. D., of one hundred and forty-six octavo pages on, **THE HISTORY AND STATISTICS OF OVARIOTOMY**, is highly creditable to the industry of the author, who has really given the profession a very useful and instructive account of all that is known on the subject. The two operations at the Massachusetts General Hospital, performed a few weeks since, will be noticed by him, probably, hereafter. The amount of labor Dr. Lyman imposed upon himself to produce this historical record of one of the extraordinary resources of surgery, is obvious in the marginal references. The antiquity of operations on the ovaries, to destroy them, even in the age of the kings of Lydia, presupposes further advances in anatomical knowledge than the schools have been accustomed to admit. It seems that the existence, precise location and functions of those organs in the female, were very early and very distinctly understood, or they could not, and would not have punctured them with needles, for the purpose of their destruction.

It is with peculiar satisfaction that we bear this public testimony in favor of Dr. Lyman's interesting and excellent production. The Massachusetts Medical Society ought to circulate it gratuitously, beyond the immediate circle of its own members; otherwise, the merits of the author must necessarily be circumscribed to the small limits of a single New England State.

COMMISSIONERS OF INSANITY.—It is quite a new feature in the legislation of the New England States, of late, to have men of high professional reputation, selected by executive appointment, to stand between the community and those who really are, or feign to be lunatics, when arraigned for great crimes and misdemeanors. It is a new step for advancing Christian civilization.

Here is an opportunity for being severe upon those singular selections made in the heat of political frenzy in which individuals are commissioned to determine important questions, in regard to public hygiene—the construction of hospitals for the insane—prisons—quarantine regulations—and the like, who are grossly incompetent for such positions. But hoping for better things in future, and gratified with the progressive exhibitions of humanity in the administration of those institutions especially designed for securing personal, every-day comfort for the poor, the reason-bereft, old age, and helpless infancy, we shall not dilate on the past, but glory in the success of the present.

PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY.—Important discoveries are constantly being made by close observers, which are giving practitioners increased power in the management of diseases. Minute researches are conducted by the microscope, which are clearing up old and mysterious errors, by unfolding the structure of organs and the exact character of lesions. There are several pathological anatomists in the United States who have established reputations as authorities abroad. Those who have written the results of their explorations and researches have advanced science, and strengthened physicians. Every fact, however insignificant, is still a fact, and should in no wise be lost. If it is, then nothing has been permanently gained for science or humanity.

EPIDEMICS.—Where all sanitary precautions are neglected, and vegetable decomposition is suffered to go on in the midst of a thickly inhabited district, epidemics may be expected.

In sections of the country where the towns and villages are in the neighborhood of sluggish streams, which, being low, exposes, in the heat of summer, large tracts of mud to the action of the sun, epidemics are likely to occur.

Occupants of badly ventilated houses, in close, narrow streets, where the influence of the solar rays are rarely felt, are always in danger, through the summer season, of suffering from epidemic disease.

Wherever filth is permitted to accumulate, in and about human dwellings, the atmosphere is filled with noxious exhalations, destructive to health; and epidemics often have their origin under such circumstances.

PILLS.—Among our national peculiarities is the universal disposition to take medicine. Even the counteracting force of homœopathic influences, does not limit the insatiable appetite of the people for patent medicines. Individuals sometimes discard the physician, but, in doing so, double and treble doses on their own responsibility. Pills are the popular medicines, and hence those who manufacture them reap a profit proportioned to the never-failing demand. The composition of the pill is of no consequence, nor are those who take the most of them particular in respect to the disease for which they are swallowed. All pills are presumed to be good for something, and that is sufficient. The severely drastic pills, which, like bullets from a Minnie rifle, tear their way through, are much admired. Ten barrels, we imagine, of cathartic pills, would scarcely supply any ten States a month.

The Burlington Sentinel speaks warmly in praise of the appointment of Samuel W. Thayer, Jr., M. D., of that town, who has been elected by the Legislature of Vermont, a commissioner of insanity. He is represented by the Free Press, to be admirably qualified. As Dean of the Medical College connected with the University, Dr. Thayer is well known abroad. It seems by an expression in the Sentinel, that advantageous offers have been made to induce Dr. Thayer to take up his connections with Burlington.

DEMAND FOR PATENT MEDICINES.—With mortification let the truth be acknowledged, that in spite of the efforts of about thirty medical schools, thousands of physicians, the common sense of the people and the shafts of ridicule, the demand for patent medicines was never more active or more profitably conducted by those engaged in the trade that at the present moment. Several educated practitioners have embarked in the business, which has yielded them better pecuniary returns in six months than they received in six years by laborious practice. A mortifying confession to make in 1856.

INFANTILE DISEASES.—It is a singular circumstance that, notwithstanding the many excellent treatises extant on the diseases of children, old women are the most successful practitioners in that domain. The secret of their good luck consists in preparing harmless herb teas, while nature, thus uninterrupted, accomplishes the cure. A contemplation of this acknowledged result has inaugurated homœopathy in families, where otherwise it would never have been known. Over-dosing is one of the great errors of many physicians.

VEGETARIANS.—Since the death of that inveterate stickler for an exclusively vegetable diet, who predicted that the time was approaching when the lion would actually eat grass, like an ox, no prominent disciple wears his mantle. Our old kind-hearted friend, Dr. Alcott, who eschewed a good many good things which a beneficent Providence has prepared for human food, seems to have retired, discouraged, perhaps, in the attempt to make beef-eaters conform to his simple regimen. The fact is, while men have the sort of teeth in their jaws, now in use, they will dine on roast, boiled and fried meats, whether cheap or dear. A colony of vegetarians have settled by themselves in Kansas, at a place they have christened *Octogon*, where the future Methuselahs will eat, drink, and be merry in their own way, uncontaminated by the taste or sight of the flesh pots of civilization.

MEDICAL MOROSENESS.—While gentlemen of the law are on excellent terms with each other, and the clergy of different denominations are willing to pray for their enemies, physicians are accused of being particularly unfriendly to each other, where there is rivalry in business; but warm friends so long as they stand upon the same level. Here, therefore, is a direct charge of professional envy. The millennium, to be sure, has not arrived, but on a survey of society, it strikes us that the charge is groundless, and emanates from an envious source. There are very many pugnacious, envious, quarrelsome individuals in the medical ranks, who make themselves excessively unhappy because the public think less of them than they do of themselves, but that does not affect the character of the whole profession.

MEDICAL INSTRUCTION IN ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND AMERICA, COMPARED.—The actual advantages of the London hospitals are very small in comparison with those of Paris. As for anatomical facilities, there is not a medical school in any village in the United States, that does not afford subjects for dissection cheaper, and in greater abundance, than either King's College, or any other college in London. While in England, a year since, at University College Hospital, the students paid twenty-one shillings (\$5.25) for an arm, thirty shillings (\$7.50) for a leg, and from four to five guineas for an entire subject; for the price paid for a single extremity in London, they could have dissected in Paris, from the first of November to the middle of April, or had two sessions in Florence of five months each. As is well known to our readers, every medical school in London has a hospital connected with it, access to which must be obtained by paying, this payment varying in amount in different hospitals. Admission to the University College Hospital costs four dollars; to the London Hospital, ten dollars; to King's College Hospital, two dollars, and to Middlesex Hospital, five dollars. In Guy's Hospital a dressership costs two hundred and fifty dollars per annum; in the London Hospital it commands one hundred and fifty dollars, and the same in the Middlesex Hospital. Attendance upon both the medical and surgical practice of University College Hospital costs one hundred and fifty dollars; upon either one alone, seventy-five dollars per annum. One cannot attend the meetings of any of the scientific societies, unless he pay the admission fee, of course varying in different institutions, yet in all cases being of some consequence to the student who wishes to take advantage of all the means of improvement by which he is surrounded. How entirely different from the manner in which things are carried on across the channel!

The most ample anatomical material is obtained at the *Ecole Pratique*, or *Clanart*, during six months, for thirty francs (\$6.00) — less than half the cost of a subject in London, and this, if one is not a candidate for a diploma from the *Ecole de Médecine*, is the entire outlay for medical knowledge. If the diploma be an object, the sum annually paid by the house-surgeon at Guy's will meet all the expense, and leave thirty dollars to spare. In a word, the attendance upon one single course of lectures in any one of the schools and hospitals, in London, will cost the student more than attendance during four years upon the lectures of eighteen professors and twelve hospitals in Paris. In Paris, such a thing as a hospital fee is unknown, and the offices of house-surgeon and dresser, instead of costing their occupants one or two hundred dollars a year, are sources of nearly as much revenue, yielding to each, four hundred francs (\$80) and their lodgings, the first year, and five hundred francs (\$100) and their lodgings during the second and third years. No hospital, library, or other fee is necessary. The matriculation ticket of the school of medi-

cine, or a diploma from any other medical school, secures a card of admission to the hospitals; and in the absence of a diploma, a simple declaration of the fact of your being a foreign student or physician is sufficient, the ticket system having been introduced solely to prevent improper persons from entering the hospitals, and in very many of them, even this is not necessary. Situations in the hospitals are neither bought nor given away; they are the reward of merit, free alike to the young and old, the rich and poor, and obtained in but one way — by *concours* — which, with all the objections urged against it, is, after all, and in truth, the only decisive test of merit. With reference to private teaching, I may remark, that the various *internes* and house-surgeons are but so many private instructors, whose services can be obtained at the rate of five or six dollars a month. I would here observe to young Americans going to Paris, that *all the lectures delivered in the Ecole de Médecine are gratuitous*; in other words, the lectures for which they pay here from eighty to one hundred dollars, are there given by the most eminent medical men in the world, *for nothing*. To become an M. D. in France the following must be gone through: — the individual must produce his act of birth; the consent of his father or guardian, if he be under twenty-one years of age; a certificate, from a civil authority, of good moral character, and, finally, the diploma of Bachelor of Sciences and Letters. The period of study is four years, during which time the candidates take out sixteen inscriptions, as they are called, which are only certificates of attendance upon the prescribed courses, submit to five examinations, and defend a thesis, at the cost of one thousand francs, and the price of the diploma being one hundred francs, the whole cost amounts to eleven hundred francs, (\$220). The subjects of the examinations are as follows: —

First Examination — Anatomy and Physiology, Dissection — the candidate being required to make some designated anatomical preparation in the dissecting room in six hours, relative to which he is asked questions.

Second Examination — Internal and External Pathology, with operations.

Third Examination — Natural History, Physics, Chemistry and Pharmacy, the candidate replying demonstratively to the questions addressed to him on chemical substances and medicinal plants.

Fourth Examination — Medical Jurisprudence, *Materia Medica*, and Therapeutics.

Fifth Examination consists, 1st, in a composition in Latin or French, upon a medical or surgical question, the subject of which is determined by lot; 2d, in the examination of one or more patients in some one of the hospitals, after which they deliver their diagnosis, and the treatment which they consider should be adopted. The thesis is required after this last examination. The subject is chosen by the candidate. With regard to living, — the necessary expenses of living are no greater, in fact, they are less, than in this coun-

try. A word to non-professional readers. Government schools of all kinds are open to foreigners as well as natives, *gratuitously*. The following is the list of languages taught at the "Imperial School of living Oriental Languages," by the most eminent men in France, — Thibetan, Maylay, Sanscrit, Turkish, Armenian, Hindostanee, Persian, Chinese, Tartar, and many others that have escaped my memory. In view of all these advantages, the only matter of surprise is, that more do not avail themselves of these privileges, that are without parallel in any other country.

MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.—With rich materials, the memories of very many men who have given lustre to medical science, in America, will certainly be lost to coming generations, if efforts are not made to save them. Dr. Thacher, and after him, the late Dr. Williams, collected the names of a few, but not as large a number as might have appeared, had the encouragement been greater.

Because a live dog is better than a dead lion, it should not prevent the living from studying the lives and characters of those who have preceded them. If some narrow minds rejoice in the removal of a light that outshone their own farthing candle, mere prejudice should not deter them from climbing the same ladder by which others rise to eminence.

MEDICAL CONCOURS.—By the adoption of the system of *concours*, nearly all those brilliant physicians and surgeons who have shone and are still shining with splendor in the French empire, are raised from obscurity, to the most enviable position which men of genius attain in any country. It is a simple process to determine the measure of individual talents and acquirements.

When a professorship is to be filled, before a competent committee, whoever chooses may appear, and lecture extemporaneously, and they decide, without fear of offending, upon merit alone, who is the most competent. Were the hospitals of Paris to make up their medical staff as is customary in the United States, through the influence of relatives, and prospective donors to their institutions, they never could have made that scientific progress which has given to France and the world such a succession of great operators and learned authors on medicine.

Propositions to open places of honor and profit in the schools of medicine and public institutions, to competitors, on the French plan, have invariably been voted down in this democratic country, because it might bring into notice such men [as cliques must keep under, in order to buoy up themselves. It is charming to converse quietly upon the beautiful thought that all men are born equal, when less than a tenth part of mankind, in all nations and regions, including the freest republics, succeed in depriving all the rest of their just proportion of political power and property and the influence belonging to the possession of them.

Personally we have no interest in bringing about a change. If the profession, so numerically large in the United States, are willing to become pack

horses, and carry upon their backs men who never have allowed merit to be the pass-word to the seats of honor, and a professor's choice is considered to be one, why no one has a right to complain when they tamely submit to their fate.

Possibly, in the course of human events, the people may look into the organization of the medical schools, as they do into other institutions for instruction. There would be a stampede, directly, were legislative inquiries instituted occasionally for the purpose of ascertaining how some of the faculty were planted in their comfortable places, especially if it were decreed that those only who sustained themselves meritoriously by the ordeal of public concours, could be confirmed in the possession of their chairs.

UNRESTRAINED SALE OF POISONS.—Horrible crimes are continually being perpetrated in the United States by strychnine, arsenic, prussic acid, and other poisons which are on sale at all the drug stores; and whoever calls for either, as a general thing, obtains the article he asks for, without being very minutely questioned. This is doing the whole community a great wrong. It is putting it within the power of a wicked wretch to murder any man, woman or child against whom he has a grudge, by the most subtle of all life-destroying agents known to science. There should be immediate legislation upon this important subject. Dreadful, indeed, have been the developments in England, of late, in regard to the criminal use of strychnine; and if it has not already come to light here that the same means have been employed with murderous designs, every individual is equally exposed to the dark, insidious approach of those who have no fear of God before their eyes. An attempt was made in the Legislature of Massachusetts in the session of 1848, for the enactment of a law to oblige druggists and apothecaries to register the names of all persons to whom poisons were sold, their places of residence, and the intended use of them. If the applicants were unknown to them, unless a certificate of some well known, responsible citizen accompanied the application, the poison should be withheld.

Singular as it may appear, this very proper, and certainly judicious precaution, was made unpopular in the House, and voted down. Wiser action, it is to be hoped, will characterize the doings of a future Legislature, since the danger is becoming more imminent from an increase of crime, and the impunity with which it is perpetrated. Druggists themselves, we doubt not, for their own protection, would prefer to be licensed by the civil authorities to sell these terrible poisons.

NEW-YORK COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.—Among the prominent leading medical institutions of the country, the reputation of this school of science has maintained a high reputation, and it will exercise an influence while the regents fill its chairs with men instead of manikins. So many schools

of medicine are commencing their annual course of lectures nearly at the same time, it is quite impossible to keep pace with their opening ceremonies for the season.

Although furnished last week with a synopsis of the salutatory exercises of this college, the accumulations of manuscript of all sorts and kinds, partly in type on the form, it was crowded out.

That it is an old institution, there is no room for doubt, on recollecting that this is the commencement of its *fifty-first* session. Any thing is old that has stood the friction of half a century in the United States, and quite venerable in the estimation of antiquarians.

All the preliminary exercises were excellent. Ladies graced the occasion, as they always should, and at the fitting stage, the President proclaimed that the following gentlemen had been admitted to the degree of M. D., viz.:—

James Morrill Allen, Jr., A. B., of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Cornelius Van Allen Anderson, A. M., of New-York City.

George Martin Bates, of Sandwich Islands.

John James Campbell, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

William Scott Denniston, A. M., of Orange Co., N. Y.

Robert Charles McEwen, A. B., of Connecticut.

Robert Ray, Jr., A. M., of New-York City.

Matthew Francis Regan, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Eustace Trenor, of New-York City.

Prof. Gilman delivered an introductory discourse, abounding in fine thoughts and terse sayings, which was received by a discriminating audience with manifest satisfaction. Hoping for an opportunity to publish in full, the whole lecture, hereafter, we refrain from an attempt to do him that justice at present, which is due to real medico-literary merit.

MARRIAGES.

Nicholas Francis Cook, M. D., of Chicago, Illinois, to Miss Laura Abbott, of Warren, R. I.

Joel Seaverns, West Roxbury, Mass., to Miss J. W. Swan.

Dr. A. B. Whiting, of New York, to Miss M. A. Church, of Fort Hamilton. I. Howard, Jr., Esq., of New York, to Miss A. S. daughter of Samuel Gregg, M. D., of Boston.

Dr. J. M. Rhodes, of Ontanagon, Lake Superior, to Miss L. M. Sprague, of Boston.

In Brooklyn, N. Y., James R. Greacen, M. D., to Miss H. A. Hertz. A. B. Whiting, M. D., of New York, to Miss M. A. Church.

John F. Brinton, Esq., of Philadelphia, to Miss A., daughter of the late Dr. Amos Binney, of Boston.

In Boston, G. G. Hammond, to Miss E. C., daughter of Dr. Charles Mifflin.

Dr. I. T. Talbot, of Boston, to Miss E. F. Fairbanks.

DEATHS.

In New York, Dr. David Green.

At Ashfield, Mass., Dr. Enos Smith, 86.

Near Edinburgh, Scotland, Samuel Brown, M. D. He was a learned man, but a disappointed one, as he never attained the positions he coveted, and for which his qualification fitted him. When the Chair of Chemistry was vacant, on the death of Dr. Hope, Dr. Gregory out-distanced him in the race for preferment, and obtained the appointment. The fact is evident that he had no influential relatives, without which talent may go begging. He was the author a tragedy, which was his only literary production beyond the pale of scientific labors.

At Strasburg, Professor Gerhardt, of the Chair of Chemistry at the School of Pharmacy, in that city. He was held in such estimation, that the government held out an intimation that his family is to be provided for at the public expense. Here, they would have been left to shift for themselves—republics are proverbially ungrateful, and especially so towards men of science.

At Mauritius, Professor Wenceläus Bojer, a celebrated Botanist. He was a native of Prague, in Bohemia, and died at the age of 55. He was selected by the late emperor of Austria to accompany Hilsenberg to explore the island of Madagascar and the eastern shores of Africa. He was an excellent geologist, chemist, as well as botanist, and understood more of medicine than hundreds who profess to know considerable.

At Rome, Dr. Emile Brown, an antiquary and secretary of the Archæological Society of Rome. He had abandoned medicine from early life, and engaged in a pursuit more congenial to his nature.

In New York, Dr. P. J. Brady, suddenly, 41; Wm. C. Wallace, M. D., 50; Dr. E. V. Brown, of consumption, 54; Mrs. Mary Thacher, daughter of the late Dr. Thomas Fitch, of Philadelphia.

Near Sacramento, California, Dr. Armstrong,—murdered by one Colebrook, who was taken from a justices' court where he was under examination for the crime, and hung.

Near Martinez, California, Dr. John Marsh, the owner of a large ranch near Mount Diablo, and well known as a resident of some twenty years' standing in California, was found murdered, near the ranch of Col. Gift, about two miles from the town of Martinez. The body was much cut and mangled. As the watch of the deceased was gone, and there was no money found on his person, it is supposed that the murder may have been committed for the sake of the booty. Some Spaniards, with one of whom Dr. Marsh had recently a lawsuit, are suspected of the crime. A party from Martinez have gone in pursuit of them.

It may be recollected by our readers that in the Bulletin of July 19, we published a lengthy article, entitled "A California Home," in which a description of Dr. Marsh's residence in a beautiful valley between Mount Diablo and the San Joaquin, and some mention of his personal character and habits were given. From the improvements which for many years the de-

ceased gentleman had been making and had nearly completed, his place of abode had become, probably, the most beautiful and complete private residence in the State. Inexorable death has now torn him from all the objects of life which he had so patiently and painfully accumulated. Dr. Marsh was a graduate of Harvard University, and a member of the medical profession. As we formerly said, he was a man of great intelligence, of varied accomplishments, and singular experiences of life. He had some bitter personal enemies in his neighborhood, and it is possible that his murder may have been instigated by private malice.

One of the murderers of Dr. Marsh has been taken. Parties are on the track of the other, supposed to be implicated with him. The wallet of the doctor was found on the person of the one taken. \$500 reward is offered for the one that escaped.

Dr. Marsh was a native of Danvers, Mass., and graduated at Harvard College in 1823.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 25.

Eliza Saul 1 day, Catharine J. Campbell 2 mos., Peter O'Leary 2 do., Mary J. Slatterly 20 do., Patrick Murphy 17 do., Ellen Sullivan 12 do., Sarah Doherty 2 do., Flora Bucknam 12 do., George R. S. Fuller 18 do., Elizabeth McCartney 70 yrs., John Scanlon 50 do., Dennis Collins 2 do., Bridget Conway 40 do., Jeremiah McCarty 4 do., Eunice Waterman 73 do., Ellen Gardner 2 do., Mary J. Haley 2 do., Thos. Haley 35 do., Mary Return 62 do., Sullivan W. Cuthing 34 do., James Honeybun 28 do., Mary Gipson 37 do., Josephine C. Batchelder 8 do., Lucy A. Richardson 30 do., George A. Wood 49 do., James Sutton 53 do., Mary Fessenden 78 do., Prudence Whitney 66 do., George F. Taylor 32 do., Thankful U. Dean 41 do., Eben E. Norton 19 mos., Lawrence Hankerd 20 do., Henry Bergoin 41 yrs., Ann Smith 30 do., Henry Cleary 30 do., Jemima Willett 80 do., John Casey 2 do., Patrick O'Brien 31 do., Louisa A. Burgess 18 do., Catharine Parker 22 do., Bartholomew O'Connell 38 do., Newell Sturtevant 48 do., Mary Bowditch, 76 do., Bridget Doherty 38 do., Catherine O'Brien 5 do., Robert Moorhead 5 do., Mary C. Hefferan 13 mos., Jenny M. Clark 2 do., Julia Lawless 3 days, Catherine McElroy 27 yrs., Patrick Trayers 28 do., Charles W. Foran 26 days, Peter Flynn 21 do., Anna F. Heywood 9 mos., Margaret Sullivan 2 yrs, Matthew Collins 35 do., Charlotte A. Kennedy 2 do., Samuel M. Wharff 5 do., Abigail Lovis 83 do., Lydia C. Hook 17 do., Elizabeth Dixon 3 do., Ellen Hurley 2 do., Mary F. Hearn 3 do., James Donahoe 4 do., John Bellows 4 do., Wm. Sawyer 7 mos., Elizabeth Gray 11 do., Ann R. Garrety 14 do., Mary A. Callahan 8 do., Martha Howarth 9 do., Michael McManamy 5 days, Mary E. Edwards 11 do., Francis Carroll 33 yrs., Frederick O. Carpenter 2 do., Frank M. Wyman 2 do., Jenny Farrington 28 days, Franklin Warner 12 months.

DISEASES.—Accident 2, apoplexy 2, consumption 14, convulsions 2, croup 5, dysentery 3, debility 4, dropsy in head 3, infantile diseases 7, unknown diseases 4, scarlet fever 6, inflammation of lungs 2, congestion of lungs 2, teething 5, thrush 4, other diseases 1 each, 12; total 77. Born in United States 60, Ireland 11, England 2, British Provinces 2.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

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2—6mos

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REFERENCES.

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J. F. Stone, Esq., 8 Webster Bank Building, Boston.

B. E. Perry, Esq., 20 Court street, Boston.

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THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

NOVEMBER 12, 1856.

NUMBER 7.

RESOURCES OF NATURE IN SAVING LIFE.

Surgeons, in the course of their practice, are occasionally called upon to extract articles of a very extraordinary nature, from the human body. Needles and pins, for instance, are often inadvertently swallowed, and go into the stomach, from which they perhaps work their way to the surface of the body, and are extracted by surgical aid. Sharp or pointed pieces of bone, which have been swallowed in eating, are known to have been obtruded through the body in the same manner. Nature, it is well known, is most energetic in its struggles to expel foreign substances from the body; and if it fails in this its first object, it generally adopts the next best course—endeavors to seclude the substance by surrounding it with a sack: thus, if possible, keeping it from doing harm to the system. Every effort, however, which nature makes, is frequently baffled, and art has to be employed to relieve the sufferer.

One of the most remarkable instances of the extraction of a foreign substance from the body, which ever came within our knowledge, was published in the *Lancet*, (Dec. 2, 1837.) It is the narration of a case in which a steel table fork was extracted from the back of a common seaman: and being written by the gentleman who operated—Dr. David Burnes, Ca. 4 Vernon Place, Bloomsbury Square, London—is worthy of all credence. We take the liberty of laying it before our readers.

“Robert Syms, aged twenty-three, was entered on the sick list of His Majesty’s ship *Belvidera*, about the middle of June, 1831, complaining of pain at the inferior angle of the right scapula, close to the base of which was a small phlegmon, as I then considered it, in the early stage of suppuration. On the 19th of June, I opened the “boil,” and ordered poultices to be applied, thinking it would heal kindly in a few days. On the 23d,

however, on probing the wound, I felt what I first thought was the edge of the scapula, but, on more minute examination, something black and shining was seen in the wound. On the 24th, it being evident that there was some foreign body in the wound, the opening was enlarged directly upwards, and a piece of steel about the thickness of a common ramrod, presented itself, but resisted strongly any efforts to extract it. Being unwilling to put him to further pain, while there was a chance of its coming away by poulticing, and pulling it with the forceps daily, this gentler course was agreed on in preference to making a further enlargement of the wound. Being questioned as to the nature of the piece of steel, he expressed himself as much astonished as we were at its presence, and said he should not have known it if we had not told him, and he had not felt pain from pulling it with the forceps. He had never been in action, having been only two years in the king’s service, nor did he recollect having received any wound by which anything of the kind could have been introduced. About two inches below the opening made on the 19th, we observed a small white speck, or mark, rather resembling the mark left many years after vaccination, than a cicatrix of a wound. This was the only vestige of anything like a wound that we could detect in his back.

July 2.—The poulticing has been continued, and there is now a free discharge from the wound; the steel has been pulled daily by the forceps, and admits now of further motion, especially laterally, but is yet forcibly retained at its upper part. Its direction is nearly parallel with the base of the scapula, close to which it lies, and in its course upwards it seems to incline deep into the substance of the muscles. About an inch of it can be seen when the integuments are retracted. He is averse to further measures; has no pain, except from the use of the forceps. Continue poultices.

16th. Though the poulticing was continued, and the steel pulled daily, there is no material alteration since last report, further than that the steel may be moved more freely in every direction, except when pulled directly downwards, when it seems to be retained as forcibly as at first. The probe can be introduced into the wound, upwards and inwards, nearly four inches, and can with some difficulty be made to move round the steel, but no information as to its size or shape can be gained from this method of examination. It occurred to me, at this time, that it was a hook, and that it might be retained by catching on one of the ribs. Having no pain except from the pulling, and being still averse to the use of the knife, the same treatment was pursued.

August 5th.—The foreign body having become very little loosened, and now causing more pain on its being moved, I made a deep incision of about three inches in length over its course upward, using it as a director, when it was easily extracted, and found to be a common kitchen fork, broken off close to its handle, and with one of its *two* prongs wanting about an inch from its point; it was blackened, and in some degree rusted. It seemed to have been retained by a bridle of muscular fibres, embracing its shoulders, for it was immediately liberated when the part was divided by the knife. The wound was dressed simply, and healed so soon that in ten days the man was doing duty in the boats and aloft. Strange as it may seem, even after its extraction, the man persisted in adhering to his original statement of his being ignorant how and when it had been introduced; and during the two months I remained in the ship I was not able to gain further information on the matter. He seemed to have no defect of memory in any way, for he, without hesitation, gave me every information. I asked him as to his former life and habits. He is a native of Topsham, Devonshire, has been at sea since he was twelve years of age, and in the merchant service till two years ago, when he joined His Majesty's ship *Tweed*, at the Isle of France, and from which ship he was paid off immediately before joining the *Belvidera* in February last.

Setting aside his own statement altogether, my own opinion is, that it must have been in his back for many months, if not for years, judging from the indistinct and ill-defined mark left, taking it for granted that this was the wound by which it had been introduced, but which is yet problematical, from the little pain he experienced from its presence, and

more especially from the knowledge that, during the previous months while he belonged to the *Belvidera*, he was never one day off his duty or on the sick list. Your readers are, however, as well able as myself to form conjectures on the subject.

Having already experienced a difficulty in convincing some skeptical individuals of the facts above related, I may in justice to your readers and myself, state that as the case excited great interest, while under treatment, the patient was seen by the Honorable Captain Dundas, Dr. Tweedale, and most of the officers and crew of the ship, and also by Mr. Geddes; Mr. Chartres, and Dr. Jones, Surgeons, Royal Navy; and the fork was extracted in the presence of Dr. Tweedale—who assisted me—Mr. Yates and others.

The patient continued to serve in the *Belvidera* till December, 1833, when he joined His Majesty's Ship *Blonde*, going to South America. Being anxious to trace his future history, in the hope of obtaining some clue as to the introduction of the fork, I was enabled through the kindness of Sir William Burnett, the physician-general of the navy, on the arrival of the *Blonde* at Portsmouth about a month ago, to communicate with him by letter. The result was, that he came up to London, and on the 18th of November, called upon me to show himself. He then stated, that about eighteen months ago, while washing himself, he felt a small hard bag on the left side of the neck, which he was inclined to believe was part of the fork. On examining the part, I had no doubt myself of its being the portion of the broken prong, and which I asked permission to extract. He readily assented; but before the operation, I submitted him to the inspection of Sir W. Burnett, Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Siston, and other gentlemen, who corroborated my opinion as to its being a portion of the fork, and recommended its extraction. On the 28th, in the presence of Mr. C. Smith, surgeon, I made an incision over it (its position being just behind the middle part of the posterior edge of the sternocleido mastoideus muscle, where it is crossed by the external jugular vein,) when it was easily removed, and proved to be the prong, which had the same bronzed appearance as the fork itself, and was coated with rust at its fractured end. It does not exactly join with the fork, and I am inclined to think some very minute splinters may have been broken from it when fractured, or some chemical action whilst in the body may have corroded it. It is singular that he had

never suffered pain from it, although it had crossed from the right side of the back to the left side of the neck. I was only induced to extract it from its superficial position, and the singularity of the history, yet it is possible it might, in time, have advanced still further, and have injured the carotid artery, or trachea.

Although cross-questioned by all who saw him, he still repeats his former story of being innocent as to the introduction of the fork. As he felt a little inconvenience from my incision, he has left town with the intention of joining His Majesty's Ship President, for another three years' cruise, and, from what I know of him, I am convinced my steel-backed friend will do credit to the wooden walls of Old England."

No rational person can for a moment suppose that the ignorance of the man was real. The wound caused by such an instrument must have been in the highest degree severe, and an effort to withdraw it appears to have been the cause of the forcible fracture near the handle. The persevering manner in which Dr. Burnes followed up this interesting case is praiseworthy, and does credit to his professional industry.

WOUNDS OF THE ABDOMEN.

BY H. R. ROBARDS, M. D., PROF. OF SURGERY,
MEMPHIS MEDICAL COLLEGE, TENN.

I was called, during the coldest weather in December, in consultation with Dr. Peyton, of this place, to visit two men who had been severely wounded in a fight that took place on a Ferry Boat, while crossing Loosa Hatchie, about four miles above the city. On our arrival, we found both the patients in a small log house, occupied by the ferrymen. One, Mr. B., was lying on the bed, bleeding profusely from various wounds in different parts of the body; the most serious of which, however, was one just above the elbow joint in front, which severed the whole of the integuments down to the bone. The other patient, Mr. S., was lying on the floor before a large fire, apparently in a dying condition. He also had received numerous wounds, inflicted with the same knife, which, though not seen by us, was supposed to be an ordinary large dirk knife, with a blade $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, and six or eight long. The wound in this case that was of most importance, and seemed inevitably fatal, was in the

abdomen—on the left side, a little below the umbilicus. A large amount of intestine and omentum was protruding, and resting on the floor. It must have been inflicted at least an hour and a half before we saw it, and on inquiry we found that after receiving the wound he jumped into the river, and either swam or waded ashore, with this amount of intestine and omentum hanging out (it could not have been less than a hat-full,) and the thermometer standing considerably below freezing point. On reaching the shore he laid some time on a log, and was then taken into the house by some friends. Being in a state of collapse when I examined him, pulse feeble, the extremities cold and clammy, the features contorted and pallid; he was let alone to die, and our attention directed to Mr. B., whose wounds occupied $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour in dressing. In the meantime, however, S. frequently called for aid, begging us to give him morphine and let him die easy, that he knew he was obliged to die, &c. He was given large doses, but no brandy—he had taken quite enough of that before the fight. Finally, after becoming a little excited and relieved by the morphine, he began to beg to be dressed, and said no one knew but that he might get well yet. I asked him many questions while still engaged in dressing the wounds of the other patient; among them was, what kind of a pistol he shot his adversary with. He replied, "a d—d good one." (I mention this fact to show what powerful influence the mind and nerve can exercise in a case of severe wounds of any kind.) In my opinion, nine-tenths of the men in the world would have died of similar wounds and under similar circumstances, in 3 hours.

Finally, my attention was directed to the dressing of his wounds, more for decency's sake, than with any hope of saving him. The intestines, though wounded in various places, had only one cut of any considerable size; the others were merely punctured, and completely obstructed by the protrusion of the villous coat. The distention by flatus was enormous; strangulation being perfect. The bowel and omentum were carefully placed in a basin of warm water, cleansed and softened, (they had become completely glazed) the large wound was closed with the Glover's Suture, the small ones let alone. I then introduced a grooved director, and enlarged the wound in the abdominal walls about one-half. By gentle manipulation, returned the bowel the reverse of the manner of its escape, and finally the large quantity of omentum. The wound

was brought together and confined, by means of two or three interrupted sutures, a compress and bandage being applied. I proceeded to examine various other incised and punctured injuries in different parts of the body. One was immediately over the liver, and penetrated the peritoneal coat; but as there was little or no hemorrhage, I presume it did not enter that organ. Finally, the patients were given an additional opiate and allowed to rest. The next morning I called to see those patients, and to my surprise I found both without a bad symptom. Reaction had come on, but not too much. The bowels were kept confined in S.'s case; antiphlogistic remedies recommended, and I saw no more of them, Dr. Peyton taking charge of the cases. Two or three weeks afterwards I learned that S. was at the County seat, Raleigh, ready for another bout with any man that crosses his path.

This case is reported to show the extraordinary recuperative powers of nature when backed by indomitable resolution and a will of iron; and furthermore, that we should never desert a case in Surgery, as long as there is the evidence of remaining vitality, and there is no vital part mortally wounded.

Mr. P., of Arkansas, some six or eight years since, received a gun-shot wound in the abdomen, which passed entirely through and out at the opposite side. He recovered, as he supposed, entirely. About two years since, however, a tumor about an inch in diameter made its appearance near the umbilicus, a little to the left; which, in a short time, became painful and increased rapidly in size. At the expiration of six months, it measured over six inches in diameter, and was elevated about an inch above the surrounding parts; the edges were imperfectly defined, the color of the skin a dark, dusky red. There was at all times, more or less pain, and on pressure it was excruciating. In this condition he came to this city for relief. Most of the physicians at various times called and examined the case.

The diagnosis was not satisfactory, there being, as usual, a great diversity of opinion, both in regard to the nature of the disease, and the remedies that were indicated. Nearly all violently opposed any operative procedure. The patient, however, insisted so strenuously that something should be done for his relief, that finally, Dr. A. K. Taylor and I agreed to operate, and the time was appointed for it; but on meeting ten or a dozen physicians, the operation was deprecated by so large a majority, that, through respect for the opinion

of so respectable a number, we had for the time to abandon the idea.

The suffering of the patient, however, continued to increase, and we were constantly importuned to operate in defiance of opposition. His general health was also rapidly declining, and it was evident that without relief, a week or ten days more would terminate his career. Under these circumstances, we determined to operate, our diagnosis being a fibrous tumor, situated beneath the abdominal fascia, muscles, &c., but without the peritoneum, and that suppuration had in all probability taken place, which, if not discharged, would unquestionably burst into the abdominal cavity, and carry the patient off with acute peritonitis. Consequently, without calling in consultation, the patient was thoroughly chloroformed, a vertical incision made about an inch to the left of the umbilicus; the whole extent of the enlargement, and a transverse one, commencing in the centre of the first, was carried four inches outward. (I should have mentioned that the tumor was of excessive hardness, and slightly nodulated—no symptoms of fluctuation.) The dissection was then carefully carried through the fascia, and aponeurotic expansion of the abdominal muscles, immediately below which was found a large quantity of most offensive, dark, ill-digested pus—the patient was immediately turned upon his side, and the whole allowed to escape. On introducing the finger, the walls of the sac could be distinctly felt, smooth, hard and thick; warm water injections were thrown in, and the cavity thoroughly washed out. The quantity of pus that was discharged could not be accurately ascertained, but it must have been in the neighborhood of half a pint. The edges of the wound were brought together and retained by means of two or three stitches, and adhesive plaster; an opening being left at the most dependant part, and a tent left in it. Cold cloths were confined over all by means of a bandage.

About the time the dressing was completed, the patient passed out of the chloroform state, and asked inploringly, why the operation had not been commenced; and was inexpressibly happy to learn that it was all over. He was put to bed, and from that moment scarcely experienced a symptom of pain. The wound continued to discharge thick, healthy pus, for or three weeks, and rapidly healed from the bottom. He then went to the country; and through the aid of country air, tonics, &c., was in six weeks able to return to his home in the interior of Arkansas. I learned that, some

six months afterwards, from imprudence in diet no doubt, inflammation of the stomach took place, which terminated in death.

QUERY.—What had the gun-shot wound to do with this deposition of fibrine, and subsequent suppuration; it was situated, according to the representations of the patient, four or five inches from the course of the ball; and he had received no blow, or been otherwise injured in the part? Was the operation justifiable with so strong and violent an opposition to it by almost every member of the profession in the city? — *Mem. Med. Record.*

INSANITY.

At the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Abraham R. Thompson, M. D. of Charlestown, presided at the dinner-table. He is a man of professional experience; a scholar; a gentleman, and a fluent speaker. The speech shows also that he has a benevolent, Christian heart.

I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the return of this anniversary, and cordially sympathize with you in all the interesting associations of the day. I see before me a great body of worthy and intelligent men, united in the glorious work of relieving the sufferings, and promoting the happiness of their fellow-men, by unfolding, applying, and advancing the noble science of life. I sympathize with you, gentlemen, in the event which deprives us of the dignified presence of one who would have so worthily filled and adorned the place in which, by the courtesy of your committee of arrangements, I am called upon to stand. It is melancholy to think that one so eminent, so exemplary, and so universally beloved as Dr. Luther V. Bell, in the maturity of his fine powers — just as he had closed an honorable and successful career of labor in one of the highest departments of humanity, should be suddenly arrested by disease. Gentlemen, I have passed half an hour with Dr. Bell this day, and I know the most welcome intelligence I can give you, is, that I found him cheerful and hopeful, and there is a reasonable prospect that he may live many years — an ornament of our profession and a blessing to mankind. It has been my privilege to have been well acquainted with the successive Superintendents of the McLean Asylum. The first, Dr. Wyman, whose moral and intellectual qualities, with a fine practical judgment, united with untiring industry, energy, and fidelity, eminently fitted him to lay

the foundation of his peculiar department — was cotemporary with me. I prized and enjoyed his friendship through life, and cherish his memory as one of the best of men. His successor, Dr. Lee, I knew thoroughly and loved dearly. He was a man of elevated principles, brilliant talents, and of such high aims and efforts, that his delicate physical structure soon sank beneath his labors, and his beautiful mind was early translated to the bright galaxy of genius and goodness in the heavens, where his particular star will shine on forever.

When Dr. Lee, in October, 1836, left the Asylum on account of his sickness, the Trustees requested me to take the medical charge of it. Dr. Bell was appointed in December of the same year, but did not assume the duty till the following February. When he came, he found me there and requested me to remain and attend with him for a few days. During this time I made up my mind that Dr. Bell possessed all the qualities and endowments which fitted the man for the place. The result has proved the wisdom of the choice, and added another fact in evidence of that gracious Providence, which always brings the “man for the hour.”

Gentlemen, the task of Dr. Bell has been delicate and difficult — “To minister to minds diseased, pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow, raze out the written troubles of the brain, and with some sweet, oblivious antidote to cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous load which weighs upon the heart” — and how has he preformed this holy duty? Let the uniform approbation of the discriminating and honorable gentlemen who have enrolled their own names among the benefactors of mankind — by their generous and faithful care of this noble institution — let the concurring voices of our profession and of our whole community, and above all, let the gratitude of “hurt minds,” which have felt the healing balm — of bruised hearts bound up — of distracted spirits calmed — and all these restored to the duties, the enjoyments, and all the sweet harmonies of life, by the kindness and skill of the good Doctor — let these give the answer.

A few days ago we attended the funeral obsequies of an eminent and venerated member of our Society — one who with the indomitable pursuit of science, united a keen sense of family name.

This indeed was the jewel of his heart; — a wreath of perennial glory encircled the brow of his noble uncle. His father's fame rested securely on the solid basis of sound science,

extraordinary professional skill and favor, and high moral excellence. His own great reputation as a surgeon and a naturalist was constructed at immense labor out of the choicest materials, which the prolific resources of the last half century supplied so richly to a mind ever eager to learn, and never idle a moment. And just as he was about to consign his vast treasures of knowledge to his family, and to the world, the hand of death came upon him.

In every medical library there is a beautiful gem of medical literature — written by one of the most beloved and honored fathers in our profession — a memoir of his departed son — a son in every respect worthy of such a father, and of whom the good Father Taylor, the sailor's friend, said to me, the tears streaming from his eyes: "Sir, when I was in Paris, sick and dejected, young Jackson sought me out, and was to me a ministering angel of help and comfort. I shall never forget his kindness." Oh, Sir, so devoted was he to his studies, and so charming was his character, that he was the pride of Paris. Gentlemen, the venerable Nestor of our profession, the illustrious compeer and the steadfast friend through life of the departed Warren, stood by the bedside, and while his own heart was swelling beneath his own bereavement, his calm religion for the hour enabled him to comfort his dying brother with the comforts wherewith he himself had been comforted of God.

To this dark object of Insanity there is a bright side. It is the wonderful and delightful change of public sentiment in regard to the nature, and especially the treatment of it. Gentlemen, we live in an age distinguished for benevolent efforts in behalf of humanity, and among them all is the deliverance of the human mind from the darkness of Demonology — the "doctrines of Devils" — into the glorious light and liberty of a higher faith, a purer reason, and a more joyful hope. For proof of this I need not go back to that dark day of New England, and of old England too, when the Rev. Mr. Burroughs, a martyr to Demonology, being launched into eternity for witchcraft, on Salem Hill, addressed the people in such words of truth and reason concerning their unhappy delusion, that the Rev. Cotton Mather, the spiritual ruler of that dark power, alarmed at the force of what he said, and perceiving that the people were greatly moved, rode round on horseback, warning them against listening, declaring that the words he uttered, were uttered, not by Burroughs, but by the devil in him, who, having full possession of him, had transformed

himself into an angel of light, and so spoke out of his mouth. Gentlemen, I can refer to facts, within my own memory, in 1798, when I began to study my profession. The most approved asylum for the Insane was at Uxbridge. The celebrated Superintendent there in the treatment of his patients relied on drowning and whipping, and one of my own cotemporaries, a pupil of the celebrated Dr. John Warren, opened a private asylum in our immediate neighborhood, and he also practised whipping his patients. Gentlemen, the belief of possession lies at the bottom of this treatment. But about the end of the last century, the illustrious Pinel took off the chains of his patients — then a new era of humanity commenced, and notwithstanding all the wonderful discoveries in physical science and of the relations of mind and matter, and allowing to the utmost all that science can claim, it must be admitted that the real improvement in the treatment of Insanity is the result of moral rather than intellectual development and progress. It is true that long ages since, the true method of treating Insanity was revealed to the world — and yet, alas! how slow is the world in learning the most valuable truths. More than 1800 years ago there came from Nazareth a great physician. He received his Diploma from Heaven, and went about doing good, healing all manner of diseases — and how many terrible cases of insanity was there among them? "The wild maniac who had his dwelling among the tombs, and no man could bind him — no, not with chains — for though often bound with fetters and chains, the chains had been plucked asunder by him and the fetters broken in pieces. Neither could any man tame him; and always, night and day, he was in the mountains and among the tombs, crying and cutting himself with stones." What a graphic description of this awful disease, and what was the remedy? "It was the mild voice, that voice which alone can speak peace to the troubled — the voice of the Son of God — which calmed the fury of this raging maniac, and brought him to his gracious Master's feet, sitting and clothed in his right mind." As members of the medical profession, gentlemen, you are made partakers of this holy calling, and according to your labor so will be your reward. He who went about doing good, assures us that it was "his meat and drink to do the will of Him that sent him." Be followers of Him, gentlemen, you will receive the same reward. If you practise your profession from a mere love of money, you are not sure of your reward, for you may not get

your money ; if from a love of fame, it may elude your grasp ; and if you should obtain both, yet both combined would leave your hearts empty and unsatisfied. But if you practise your profession because you love to do good, your reward is sure, for the good you get is always in the exact ratio of the good you do — for goodness is a sure, and the only sure possession — earth cannot, and heaven will not deprive you of it — for goodness is permanent, and like its divine source — the Author of all good — it is indestructible and immortal.

Gentlemen, we are members of a profession which forms one link in that golden chain of good institutions which binds one generation to another and is essential to the mutual happiness and security of them all. Our profession has high honors to confer, and let those who fairly win, nobly wear them. We look back upon the illustrious dead who have filled, and around upon the illustrious living who now fill and adorn the high places of our profession ; we behold in the jewels of our Order, and we rejoice in the light of their glory as our common inheritance. Gentlemen, we cannot all reach places of public distinction, but every one of us can win and wear the true badge of nobility belonging to our Order — the noble badge of goodness. We may not be called to fill a Professor's chair or a Hospital Superintendency. But every one of us as a family physician becomes the Superintendent of a private family, and is thus made a minister of God for good to human beings. May we ever feel the true dignity and the solemn responsibility of this sacred charge ; while we do everything in our power to relieve the physical sufferings, may we, by our sincerity, kindness, sympathy and fidelity, so deserve and enjoy the confidence of our patients, that when the evil days of sickness, pain and sorrow come, we may be able to cheer and animate their hearts by that hope which is "the anchor of the soul." Gentlemen, whenever we are so happy as to inspire our patients with this hope, it will ever come back to our own hearts as a blessed cordial. May God grant, my brethren, that whenever those to whom we minister, or we who serve them, shall be called out of this uncertain and changing world, our hearts may be sustained and our spirits borne up by this heavenly power, so beautiful apostrophized by the poet, and with which I close.

"Eternal Hope ! when yonder spheres sublime,
Peal their first notes to sound the march of time,
Thy joyous youth began — but not to fade —
When all the sister planets have decayed,

When wrapt in fire the realms of ether glow,
And Heaven's last thunder shakes the world below,
Thou, undismayed, shalt o'er the ruin smile,
And light thy torch at Nature's funeral pile."

Power of Memory.—On the plantation of James Watson, near Port Gibson, Mississippi, may be witnessed an exhibition of memory that is truly remarkable, in an African girl, about fourteen years of age. It is the custom to give rewards for over-work, and during the cotton-picking season the amount each hand picks is weighed noon and night. The girl stands by the overseer, and listens to the number of pounds announced to each hand, and at night the result is reported with the utmost accuracy. Her correctness is repeatedly put to the test by Watson and others, who keep memoranda during the weighing, and a day or two afterwards she is catechised, and her memory found perfect. Mr. Watson works from sixty to seventy hands.

Poisoning by Oil of Turpentine.—Marechal of Tours mentions a case of poisoning by oil of turpentine, caused by a woman living for several days in a recently painted room. The symptoms were those of painter's colic. He considers that this disease is not produced, as is usually supposed, by the white lead, which is non-volatile, but by the evaporation of the oil of turpentine, whose poisonous action he has proved by several experiments.—*Revue Medicale.*

Aged Prisoner.—At Newburyport, Mass., Mr. Solomon P. Felker, in cutting a stick of white oak timber the other day, opened upon a tree toad, that had "come down to us from former generations," as Webster said to his fish. Over him had grown sixty-seven grains or rings of oak, indicating that that had been his home for sixty-seven years, at least, where he had existed without air, without water, without food. At first, he paid no attention to being turned out into the world again, and remained in a perfectly torpid state ; but, after lying in the sun a few minutes, he marched off, "hopping mad," and just as fresh and vigorous as a new one.

Cost of Spiritualism.—An individual in New York has spent upwards of twenty-five thousand dollars in promoting Spiritualism within the last two years, and probably will spend twenty-five thousand dollars more before he discovers the old adage, that "a fool and his money are soon parted."

EXTRA-UTERINE PREGNANCY OF FOUR YEARS' STANDING,

THE PATIENT IN THE INTERIM BEING TWICE
DELIVERED OF A HEALTHY LIVING CHILD.

By A. W. HEISE, M. D., of Addison, Ill.

In November, 1855, I was called to visit Mrs. Yungels, residing one mile east of Aurora, and thirty miles west of this place. Upon my arrival I found the patient, a woman of robust constitution, 36 years of age, to have been 10 days since delivered of a healthy male child. The three or four days following delivery she was quite well, since which time she has had a chill every day, followed by fever and profuse perspiration. Has had the usual lochial discharge, but no secretion of milk; pulse 100 to 110; tongue red, dry, and hard; no appetite. On applying my hand to the abdomen, which is painful and irritable, I find an enlargement resembling a hard tumor, which is movable and not connected with the integuments, commencing in the umbilical region about three inches above the umbilicus, extending downward parallel with the linea alba to the os pubes, filling $\frac{3}{4}$ of the lumbar and iliac region of the right side. Left of the linea alba it seems to be perfectly free from any morbid growth. Examination per vag. shows the uterus in situ, contracted; the os uteri somewhat enlarged, hot, dry, and painful; vagina natural. By moving the uterus and placing the other hand over the tumor, the motion of the uterus affects the tumor, and *vice versa*.

Upon inquiry I was informed, that four years since, the patient supposed herself pregnant, experiencing the usual symptoms attendant upon gestation for a period of 10 months, during which time the abdomen considerably enlarged, particularly the right side, which was hard and painful, rendering her unable to lie upon it after the third month. At the end of 10 months, labor commenced, and a midwife was summoned, who after expressing her fears that the child did not "lay right," declared that it was yet out of her reach, the os uteri not at all dilated, would not be delivered yet, &c.

Bearing-down pains however increased, and were finally relieved by a discharge of a large quantity of watery matter, having the appearance of beef brine, followed by coagulated blood. This not only relieved the patient, but diminished the size of the abdomen, and the

midwife assured her that she had suffered only obstructed menstruation, and would soon recover. The abdomen gradually decreased in size for the space of three weeks, when the lochial discharge ceased, and with it the diminishing of the bowels, leaving still an enlargement of the right side, which she was yet unable to lie upon.

Finding no alteration in the tumor from that time, four months afterwards she consulted a physician, who told her he could not ascertain the nature of the tumor; could do nothing for her without an operation, which, so long as she suffered so little pain, and it did not enlarge, he would not advise.

She soon became *enciente*, and in time was delivered of a large, healthy child. Parturition was easy, and she soon regained her usual health, having experienced no unusual symptoms, with the exception of the total absence of any secretion of milk. The tumor had been painful during confinement, but otherwise retained its former appearance.

Eighteen months afterwards, she again became pregnant, and in November, 1855, was once more delivered of a healthy male child—both are now living.

Dr. Young, of Aurora, who attended her, says, he observed nothing unusual in her case, did not notice any enlargement of the abdomen; called again and discharged her as doing well.

On the 10th day after confinement I first saw the patient, and found her as above stated.

I prescribed those medicines which were indicated, directed emollient poultice to the abdomen, and left, with directions that if the patient did not improve, or there was any alteration in the tumor, to inform me. Thought the tumor might be an enlargement of the right ovary, and that when the irritation of the uterus subsided and the fever abated it would cease to be painful, and she might again enjoy her usual health.

Heard no more from her until May 5th, 1856. I was summoned to see her again. I found her much emaciated, exhibiting a great degree of nervous excitability, pulse 90, small and irritable—has suffered much from pain since I saw her, having been constantly confined to her bed. The tumor at the umbilicus, has ulcerated, and discharges a very offensive fluid. Through the orifice, which is nearly the size of a half dime, a bone has protruded, another now closes the opening.

The case was now plain, and I advised an immediate operation. Dr. Young, of Aurora,

was called to assist, and upon his arrival, requested to have his friend Dr. Allaire, of Aurora, present.

Adhesion of the peritoneum had taken place around the orifice to the extent of from three to three and a half inches. I made an incision of about three inches towards the right lumbar region, and commenced at once to extract the bones. The flesh was decomposed, but the skeleton was perfect, and was of the size of a foetus at the seventh month, though the bones appeared to have the firmness of two years' growth. Its extraction through the rather small orifice was tedious, in which Dr. Allaire very kindly and effectually assisted, Dr. Young, meantime, quieting the patient by administering chloroform. The bones of the head and pelvis were too large to pass through the incision, until they were severed by a strong pair of scissors. We succeeded in removing all the bones, together with a mass of semi-decomposed matter from the sac. The sac, which was formed of a grisly substance, and so hard as to almost resist the passing of the bistoury, seemed to have contracted close around the foetus, and evidently had performed the office of placenta and uterus, it being connected with the latter.

The wound was simply dressed with lint, a bandage applied, and the patient directed to lie in a position to facilitate the discharges. She was left under the care of Dr. Young, and up to May the 10th, she was doing well. —*North-West. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

Death by Shower Bath. — Mr. Snape has been indicted in England, by the grand jury, for manslaughter, in consequence of the death of a lunatic who died under the operation of a shower bath that he had prescribed. The patient was showered twenty-eight minutes, and died soon after coming out of the closet.

Union is Strength. — So say the politicians. At Newark, N. J., not long since, six kittens were born connected one with another by ligaments of flesh, after the manner of the Siamese Twins. The little creatures thus resembled a bunch of grapes hanging from the stem.

Mystery Solved. — The chaise and harness found in the woods of Pelham, proved to be the property of Dr. J. C. Howe, of Haverhill. His horse and chaise were stolen in June last, and the horse was found in the road, but the chaise and harness were missing.

Phrenology of a Murderer. — George Wilson was executed at White Plains, Westchester Co., N. Y., on Friday, July 25th, 1856, for the murder of Captain Palmer, of the schooner *Eudora Imogene*, and the alleged murder of the mate, after which he scuttled the vessel at City Island, in Long Island Sound, about twenty miles from New York, in the month of November, 1855.

He was stubborn and audacious, yet cunning, crafty, deceitful, cruel, and ferocious when excited. He had enormous acquisitiveness and secretiveness, and, with such deficient conscientiousness, he would steal without compunction, or murder for money, if he could not get it without, and conceal his villanies with more than common skill. He had very large Amativeness, and, joined with his temperament and general organization, it gave him a licentious tendency, which he indulged to excess and in the lowest manner, as evinced by the *post-mortem* examination.

After his conviction he feigned insanity, and for a while raved like a madman, and tore off all his clothes; but on being told that this would not avail, he smiled and dropped it. The day before his execution he asked if he would be hung, if he killed the captain and mate in self-defence. He denied his guilt to the last, but from all the facts of the case, no one doubts his guilt. He declined to tell the place of his birth, or to give any history of himself.

Cholera at Madeira. — The cholera is raging frightfully at the Island of Madeira. It was taken there by troops from Portugal, who landed during the holding of the fair at Funchal. Out of a population of 28,000 souls, 500 cases have occurred, and 1500 deaths happened. There are no medical men and no medicines, and the dead lay unburied in the cemetery.

Limits of Vision. — The convexity of the earth interposes to prevent the sight of distant bodies; thus, at 600 yards, 1 inch would be concealed, or an object an inch high could not be seen in a straight line; at 900 yards, 2 inches; at 1400 yards, 5 inches; at 1 mile, 8 inches; 3 miles, 6 feet; so at that distance a man would be invisible; 4 miles, 10 feet; 5 miles, 16 feet; 6 miles, 24 feet; 10 miles, 66 feet; 12 miles, 95; 13 miles, 112, and 14 miles, 188 feet. In levelling, it is usual to allow the tenth of an inch in every two hundred yards, or eight inches in a mile for convexity.

PLEURISY AND PARACENTESIS.

Every physician knows that pneumonic inflammations are common, and often fatal, frequently in a few days after the attack, by sudden congestion of the parts affected, or both lobes of the lungs. They know too that many cases, if treated in the early stage by free and repeated general and local bleedings, antimonials, counter-irritation, mercury, narcotics, and expectorants, &c., are easily cured. But it is often that the physician is called at a late period, when the powers of life have begun to yield to the active disease, when the symptomatic fever and symptoms assume a typhoid character, and fatal or organic lesions or effusions have taken place, or are approaching that result.

My object in making this communication is to impress upon the practitioner the fact, that although the time for depletion and the remedies used to reduce local inflammation and equalize circulation, has unfortunately passed by, and symptoms still indicate chronic pulmonary disease, such as cough, difficult respiration, with a sense of fulness of the side first affected, but little expectoration, the skin and tongue dry, and other hectic symptoms, and the functions of all the organs important to sustain life have a downward tendency, yet the case may not be a hopeless one.

If the attack was at first intense inflammatory action, located on a small portion of the membrane, and is neglected in treatment, the disorder and its effects will by no means be limited to the texture or tissue first or primarily involved.

This action is governed by a law in the human system, viz.: that inflammation commencing on any secreting surface may pervade the whole of it, or it may spread rapidly to other organs, by continuity as well as contiguity. This is peculiarly the case with affections of this nature in all the organs of the thorax. Subfascial cellular tissues may be involved, and much tension would result from this, and the symptoms be much aggravated; the inter-muscular cellular tissue may be implicated, and respiration made difficult, and performed only in a favorable position or erect posture; death may take place at this stage, or it may pass on till effusions, suppuration, or morbid secretions fill the pleural cavity, and a morbid condition of all or a portion of the side affected follows; this accumulation of fluid prevents the inflation of the lungs and the action of the heart, and if the affection is in the left side, as it generally is, both these organs are crowded from their

natural condition, in some cases quite to the opposite side.

Chronic thickenings may form and impede respiration; but if it is continued till suppuration takes place, life may be prolonged and absorption be produced, and the fluid thus carried away or an ulcerative process is carried on; deposits from this cause in the lungs or pleura are more likely to be discharged through the bronchial tubes, than to make their way through the thoracic parietes. Large quantities of purulent matter may be deposited in the pleural cavity, and after this, by an effort of nature, life is prolonged by the membranous surface being protected at least for a time by a chronic thickening, or covered over by a dense fibrous deposit, which resists the pressure occasioned by the accumulation of fluid, and checks for a time the ulcerative process; but, be it remembered, it is only for a time, for should relieving openings be delayed or unwisely deferred, the physician and his patient may be over-borne, and the destruction of texture and function of vital organs certainly ensue.

Here is a space of time often occupied by the consumption doctor; the charlatan, and a host of quacks, with the exhibition only from the catalogue of quack specifics, and sometimes the intelligent physician, persists in treating the case for *quick consumption*, till the patient sinks ultimately under the form of a modified hectic disease. All this was only to enjoin the *running of a guantlet*, from which very few could escape.

It is in the practical department, by the knowledge of facts, tempered and guided by experience, judgment and discretion, that the physician and surgeon are enabled to triumph over mere theory.

I was once a believer, and practised upon the teachings of Abernethy and others, that in opening abscesses and morbid cavities it was necessary to exclude atmospheric air; that this air produced fatal results, gangrene, &c. By much observation and practice, I became satisfied that it had but little to do, as the theory of the matter explained it.

I found cold air was pernicious, and so did Larrey. He dressed large wounds and morbid cavities, if possible, in rooms surrounded by an atmosphere as warm as the patient's body: valvular openings or instruments used to prevent the admission of air are of no use; they are only necessary to discharge fluids gradually, so as to prevent the walls of the cavity from collapsing suddenly, which might destroy all

vitality, sustained by the arteries and nerves in the parts. A result follows in the capillary vessels similar to what takes place in erysipelas, and terminates in the same way in gangrene or sphacelation; to effect a favorable result let in warm air, and use mild stimulating lotions or injections into morbid cavities or surfaces.

In the operation of paracentesis I use no means to exclude the entrance of air, and in abscesses I make a free incision, and immediately use compression and stimulating lotions, &c.

In relation to the operation, there is much difference of opinion and practice on some points, as, should all the fluid be drawn at once, and the orifice be closed and suffered to heal? Much experience on these two questions induces me to be decidedly in favor of emptying the cavity of all its fluid and morbid contents, if possible, and the orifice to be kept open by placing a tube for the daily discharge of fluid, and injecting such preparations as may be best for use — the tube to be kept in till the discharge is changed to healthy serum; after this it may be removed and the opening closed.

If, after this, there should be much constitutional disturbance, I should re-open the orifice and place the tube; this might be necessary where cough and expectoration continued, or returned by the passing of matter through sinuses yet unclosed in the lung. I have had several patients who had the operation made when on the brink of suffocation, who recovered with a fistulous opening, for months able to work on a farm, and finally recover. Another question of some importance is, where ought the opening to be made? If there is found a soft tumor or rising between any of the ribs or intercostal spaces, open at that place. If no point is designated by external appearances, be sure to puncture above the diaphragm, and bear in mind that this may be carried very low by the pressure of fluid upon it, even below the short ribs. The operation of paracentesis is not difficult, but a mistake in the diagnosis may be very disastrous. Grave and important questions are involved in the subject which require a wide field for explanation and comment. I report a few cases which have recently passed under my personal observation.

Case of Oscar Remington, of Mansville, Jefferson Co., reported to me by R. Kinney, M. D., his attending physician.

"O. Remington, aged 17 years, had been healthy till the winter of 1855, when he suffered for a few weeks with a catarrhal affec-

tion, so slight, however, that he kept about his usual business, *farming*, treating it with quack specifics or domestic medicine, until thirty days from the attack, when I was called to see him.

"I found he had been suddenly seized with chills, followed by ardent fever, and some local symptoms of pneumonia and pleuritis. The febrile action, though ardent, was characterized with a small, soft, frequent pulse, indicating to me a type of fever below that which attends acute inflammation of the chest. I began treatment by bringing up full reaction, which was soon done. I then opened a vein, and, though in a recumbent posture, he fainted after losing 15 ounces of blood. After recovering, I treated with the usual alteratives, evac-uants, counter-irritation, &c., as effectually as I thought he could bear. The case passed on for three weeks with improvement and milder symptoms, abatement of fever and local difficulties. In a few days after I discovered dulness, on percussion on the right side, and respiration rather hurried, cough, and expectoration considerable, but gave no relief. He walked about his room and out in the air, and expressed a belief that he was getting better, and continued to do so for five weeks.

"At this time he became satisfied that he was losing instead of gaining strength; walking or moving increased difficult respiration, and a recumbent position threatened immediate suffocation. And the case now demanded immediate action. Doctor Trowbridge was sent for, and immediately made the operation of paracentesis, and drew nine pints of purulent matter. The following is the Doctor's prescription and directions for treatment, which were followed for several weeks:

I saw the patient, in consultation with Dr. Kinney, seven weeks from the last severe attack, and found him prostrated nearly to death, with lost functional action of the right lung, and feeble action of the heart, with pressure of fluid in the right pleural cavity. Passed a large sized trocar between the fourth and fifth ribs, and drew nine pints of matter. Directed to have the tube left in, with a cork stopper, and to draw once in twenty four hours; to inject warm tea of the usual strength for table use; to give Maderia wine, tonics, and nutritious food, narcotics and expectorants as symptoms might require, with occasional injections of the following, viz:

Nitrate Silver, 5 gr.

Water, 1 oz. mixed.

and occasionally a weak preparation of the

chloride of lime; to continue this as long as the discharge was purulent or foetid.

After the operation, Dr. K. took care of the patient, and the following is his statement of what occurred:

"After the operation the patient improved rapidly. The discharge through the canula diminished gradually, and the lung on that side resumed its suspended functions. The tube was kept in five months, when it was removed, as nothing but colorless lymph was discharged. His cough had entirely ceased, and respiration audible through the right lung, and he was in every respect recovered and healthy. Soon after this he left town and went to a distant county in the State, and worked one year and six months apparently well.

"R. KINEY, M. D."

June 28th, 1856, I was called to visit Asa Warner, aged 63, and consult with Dr. Pierce. I obtained the following history of his case, viz.: He was attacked, after exposure to wet and cold, with pleuritic symptoms; treated himself for bad cold from the first of March till the first of May, symptoms increasing for the worse. At this time Dr. Pierce saw him, and found him laboring under symptoms of pulmonary affection or phthisis. Respiration feeble, pain around the left shoulder and clavicle and left side, appetite diminished, constant cough, pulse small and quick, mucous and sonorous rale, percussion dull on the left side, great expectoration, continuous fever, with occasional evacuations, which occurred in the evening, with a chill, heat and perspiration. The Dr. treated him with stimulants, expectorants, and the usual medicine to obviate the symptoms till the day I was called, which was from the 1st of May till the 28th of June.

I found physical signs of an effusion in the left side, with great expectoration of pus, cough two or three times in twenty-four hours, an anxious and livid aspect, frequent and small pulse, gradually sinking from day to day. I advised, as a duty, that the patient should not lose the chance which an opening might give him. A large trocar was introduced between the lower two ribs, and four ounces of heavy pus discharged, resembling that which was raised by coughing.

Here the collected matter had made an opening into some of the air-passages of the lung, and was expectorated by occasional long periods of coughing. Two similar conditioned cases were reported by me in a former communication.

A similar treatment in this case was advised

to those mentioned. As the patient was twenty-five miles distant from me I have no account from him since the fifth of July, when he was supposed to be recovering.

Peter Ladd, 30 years of age, feeble constitution, had been afflicted with neuralgia of sciatic nerve and spermatic cord; after being exposed to cold was attacked with the usual symptoms of pneumonia, with severe pain in the left side. He was treated by Dr. Brewster, where he resided, in Theresa, in this county, by depletion and the usual remedies, and a partial recovery followed, and he convalesced for four weeks, with cough and pleuritic pains in the left side. In nine weeks from the attack I was called in consultation, and the symptoms were sufficiently marked to enable me to form a diagnosis; that the patient was in the last stage of phthisis, and near its termination in death. Debility and emaciation had made great progress, with constant cough and expectoration of foetid pus.

I advised paracentesis, to which he consented, and I drew five pints of purulent matter; left the tube in, and directed treatment as in the other cases. The Dr. followed directions for two weeks, and withdrew the tube. He appeared to convalesce, but symptoms of tubercular excavations appeared, with false membranes and difficult respiration, and he died in about seven weeks. Would he not have recovered if the operation had been sooner made and the tube kept longer in, and injections used?

A son of Alexander H. Morgan, aged nine years, of the same village, was attacked with pleurisy, and treated by Dr. Brewster. He passed on with but little relief for three weeks, when cough, difficult respiration, and other symptoms indicated an effusion in the left pleural cavity; respiratory murmurs weak, and percussion over the left side dull, with fulness. I advised opening the side, and drew three pints of foetid, purulent fluid; left the tube in and the Dr. treated the case daily; kept the tube in and injected for six weeks, and the boy gradually recovered.

The following is an extract of a letter from the Dr.: "Mr. Morgan removed from this place to Canada soon after your operation on his son. I was informed by him some time since that his son entirely recovered. I suppose he is still living and in good health." Until convalescence is fully established, I recommend great care in not being exposed to cold and damp air, and avoid all indigestive and very stimulating food.

When the secretions and deposits are confined to the pleural cavity, there may be false membranes formed and adhere to the pleura, and not much thickening of that tissue follow; treatment may produce absorption, and recovery follow. This may continue and paracentesis become necessary for the discharge of fluid and and morbid portions. The more aggravated cases are those where coagulated lymph and serous fluid fill the cavity between the pleura costalis and the pulmonary lining, distending them and acquiring an organized state, and filling up the cavity. Here a great difference follows in the symptoms and results. The extent and thickness of these false membranes vary according to the intensity and continuance of the inflammation.

This may have been quite local, and the case simple pleurisy, and by neglect of treatment may have become general, and extend to and cover the whole lung, diaphragm, and mediastinum of the same side. There is a difference in all the symptoms and auscultatory signs. The case is pneumonia and pleuritis. Matter may form and a fistulous opening be made through the pulmonary portion, and an opening into the trachea, and a protracted case of pulmonary disease continue by secretion of matter in the pleural cavity, and passing off by expectoration; but, suppose it is retained, it may accumulate to a large quantity and the soft lung must yield to its pressure, and may be flattened to a small compass, and the boundaries of the chest on that side enlarged, and the heart, with all the viscera of the thorax, crowded out of their natural condition, or the diaphragm pressed down below the short ribs, making a sac or tumor below them. The patient's life may now be in jeopardy from either of these conditions, and yet these cases are treated for *quick consumption*—and truly they are soon fatal without relief. And what destruction it makes among the old, middle aged, and the young, under a supposition that it is tubercular phthisis or pulmonary consumption, and treated by fancied consumption remedies till the last breath leaves the victims.

My object in making these brief remarks, in both communications, is to present arguments for being more watchful in our treatment of protracted cases of pleurisy, near their termination. AMASA TROWBRIDGE, M. D.

Watertown, July 23, 1856.

—*Am. Med. Gaz.*

Old Age. — Mrs. Mungovan died at Lowell, at the age of 107 years.

MARRIAGE OF DEAF MUTES IN FRANCE.

In August, 1842, the *maire* of Gensae, a little village of Guyenne, was summoned before the civil tribunal of Caske-Sarrasin, at the instance of Marguerite L., an uneducated deaf-mute; whose marriage he had refused to celebrate. "Marguerite was a young woman of twenty-five, robust, healthy, affectionate, capable of managing household affairs, intelligent enough to wind up the house-clock and set it to the right hour, and, for a peasant, rich. A young man of the same village sought her in marriage. The girl consented; so her parents attest, as well as the play of her features, and her signs, as expressive as tender. But *M. le Maire*, cold interpreter of the law, who acknowledged in the young woman the most praiseworthy qualities, avowing that she kept her cows with care, that she is a good housewife, that she fulfils admirably the duties of a daughter, but who did not find in her the intelligence of the Chapter VI of the civil code, title of marriage, on the duties of husbands and wives, refused to see a consent to marriage in those signs which the amorous Thyrsis found so expressive."

Appearing before the tribunal, the president sent out her friends and attempted to interrogate her with a loud voice himself, of course without any result; the best educated deaf-mute, unless he had acquired a rare faculty of reading on the lips, had been equally unable to understand the president's questions. This proceeding gives no very favorable idea of the sagacity of the judge, or of his appreciation of the peculiar circumstances of a deaf-mute. Her mother being then called in, the president desired her to ask her daughter whom she wished to marry, and to tell her to seek him in the hall. After some pantomime between the mother and daughter, the latter hastily passed among the assembled crowd, found her lover, and led him forward by the hand, amidst the encouraging smiles of the spectators. Her advocate maintained that she had sufficiently manifested her wish to marry the *Sieur B.*; but the *procureur de roi* replied: "The question has been put wrong; we have not to inquire whether the young woman, L., attends to her household affairs, whether she cooks well or ill—these facts are not contested; but whether she comprehends the burdens and duties (*charges et devoirs*) of marriage; we have to inquire whether she is capable of giving an intelligent consent. We think not. It is

not enough, in order to prove that she comprehends the importance of this solemn act, that she should push from her the *huissier*,* or that she should lead forward her *pretendant* (suitor). Whatever her advocate may have maintained, marriage does not consist in the mere bringing together of the sexes; marriage is rather a moral and civil bond which forms families; families are the nursery of the state. Among us one does not make a gipsy marriage—a marriage by breaking the pitcher.† You will, therefore, reject the demand of the deaf mute, and condemn her to pay the costs.”—*Piroux’ Journal*, iv, 140.

The distinguished deaf-mute Berthier, commenting in the public prints on this specious reasoning, remarks: “These burdens and duties of marriage, is it then necessary that the deaf and dumb mute should know them more thoroughly than other men? Are there, for their peculiar use, definitions more philosophical and metaphysical? The first village tout who presents himself is allowed to marry, provided he says yes, and a doctor’s diploma is almost necessary to the deaf-mute who would marry.”

The court, not being satisfied with the proofs offered of the intelligence of Marguerite L., named as interpreter a curate, who demanded three months to enable him to communicate with the deaf-mute. Whether, after this delay, the marriage was finally ordered, is not on record. We cannot but agree with Berthier, that the suit of Marguerite was subjected to delay, and perhaps to final refusal, rather on the ignorance of the court, than of the deaf-mute suitor. It had been far more rational to have sent for some person already habituated to converse with the deaf and dumb, as was done in the next case we shall cite.

This case occurred in Provence, a few months later. The *maire* of Roussillon scrupled to perform the ceremony of marriage for a deaf-mute bride, an intelligent dress-maker, but who could only express herself by signs. The case was carried to the civil tribunal of Apt, where (in December, 1842), after argument on both sides, and an examination of the would-be bride in open court, by sworn interpreters, who were themselves well-educated mutes, “after a session that lasted two hours, the tribunal declared Victoire Mathieu competent to give an intelligent consent to be married, found no hindrance to this marriage, and ordered that the

two interpreters who had already served the court should assist the mayor at the celebration;—that their interrogation should be reduced to the *proces verbal* by the mayor, and annexed to the *acte** of marriage, which should be signed by the same interpreters.† This decision, in connection with that already given, in the case of Clergue, seems definitely to establish the doctrine that, in France, an illiterate deaf-mute, if of sufficient intelligence, and able to clearly manifest his wishes by signs, is capable of entering into the contract of marriage, or any other civil contract.

Anna Luthi was one of the most intelligent and best-educated pupils of the deaf and dumb institution of Berne. Her father was dead, and her mother re-married. She was a very pretty young woman of twenty-five, and possessed a fortune of thirty thousand francs. Her hand was demanded in marriage by one M. Brossard, who had been deaf from the age of fourteen, a skilful lithographer, employed several years in the institution in which Mademoiselle Luthi was educated, a man of thirty-two years, possessing an excellent character, and already having laid up some money.

Some of the relatives of the demoiselle Luthi, and especially the authorities of her commune, jealous, it was said, of a stranger to the canton becoming proprietor of the fortune which they would rather have fall to one of their own young men, opposed this marriage—raising the pretext that Brossard had abused his situation as her teacher to make her sign a promise of marriage, that he sought only her fortune, and that it was to be feared that the children of such a union would inherit the misfortune of their parents. This last allegation was countenanced by the local medical men, and the judges refused consent to the marriage. The lovers appealed to the supreme tribunal of Berne; and certificates from the first professors of medicine of that city were procured in opposition to the opinion of the local physicians, as to the danger of the children inheriting the deafness of the parents; letters were produced from the young woman to Brossard, sufficiently evincing both her intelligence and her affection; and the tribunal unanimously decided that, “In the circumstances of the case, a refusal of consent would be equivalent to a general and absolute prohibition of the marriage of deaf-mutes, which, however, is not in the law; further, that the

* The *huissier* of the court had been proposed to her (in pantomime) as her future husband.

† A ceremony of marriage observed by the French gipsies.

* Equivalent, or nearly so, to what we call a certificate of marriage.

† *Piroux’ Journal*, v, 20.

very conditions in which the parties found themselves were a sort of guaranty that the demoiselle Luthi would find in him, more than in any other man, one capable of alleviating her situation, and that their pecuniary resources gave the means to procure all necessary aid in taking care of their children." The decision of the inferior court was accordingly reversed, and the marriage permitted.

In this country, where there is no law against the marriage of deaf-mutes, the scruples of one magistrate or minister need not hinder a ceremony, if the parties can find another more reasonable, or more intelligent. Neither are they restricted, as in some European countries, to have the ceremony performed in their own commune or district. A marriage for which the parties have crossed a State line, or any other line, if celebrated in accordance with the local law, is as valid as if they had been married at home. They have thus a wide field in which to find officers qualified and willing to perform the ceremony.—*Jour. Insan.*

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY OF DEAF MUTES.

The question how far uneducated deaf-mutes are responsible to the criminal law for their acts, has often been argued, within the last thirty years, before the French courts. One of the earliest cases we have met is recorded in Bebian's Journal (1826). An officer, with two assistants, went to the house of a peasant near Rodey to serve an execution. While they were making an inventory of the movables they discovered the peasant at a distance, endeavoring to drive off a cow, which was the most valuable article of his property. He was instantly pursued, and soon overtaken, knocked down, trampled on, and the cord by which he led the cow wrested from him. While one of the officers led the cow in triumph, and another dragged alone its unfortunate master by the collar, the son of the latter, returning from his work in the field, saw at a distance the affray. This was a deaf-mute of about twenty years, tall and vigorous. Furious and indignant at the way he saw his father treated, he seized the first club at hand, fell upon the aggressors with a savage yell, and, after a very brief struggle, put all three to flight. Complaint was, of course, made against father and son for rebellion and violent resistance of the officers of the law. The deaf-mute, when brought before the tribunal, could not be

made to comprehend that he had committed any offence. He supposed he was brought there in honor of his courage. When his late antagonists appeared in court, he was with difficulty withheld from attacking them, and endeavored to explain that he saw two robbers, who ought to be punished. Notwithstanding the grave nature of the offence, the task of his advocate was not difficult. All minds and hearts were already prepossessed in his favor; and the advocate had no difficulty in persuading the jury that this unfortunate youth was not amenable to laws of which he had and could have no knowledge,—that he had only fulfilled the most sacred of duties, and exercised the first of rights in defending his father and his property.—*Ibid.*

IRASCIBILITY OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.

Deaf-mutes, and deaf persons who are not quite dumb, are often suspicious and irritable, from their inability to hear and take part in what is going on around them. They sometimes take as intentional annoyance and insult, gestures or practical jests, unskilfully made, which were merely intended as friendly pleasantry. Piroux records the case of Jean-Baptist Villemin, a deaf-mute of 29 years, very imperfectly educated, and of feeble capacity. Placed by the wealth of his family above the necessity of manual labor, and incapable of intellectual labor, he fell into dissolute habits, wandering idle about the fields and frequenting public-houses. One night, in a tavern, he met a man named Marchand, who attempted to amuse himself and the company by making signs to the deaf-mute which the latter did not understand. Villemin indicated by a gesture that he desired to be let alone; but Marchand continued to annoy him, seizing his head, making a bite at his nose, and brandishing round his head a cane, which he then held in the attitude of firing a gun, saying to the company that he wished to invite Villemin to go a hunting. Villemin naturally lost his patience; unable to understand what was meant by Marchand, or to express his own sentiments, except by actions, he seized the aggressor, flung him on the floor, and gave him a kick on the head. Marchand was only slightly hurt. The company declared, and he admitted, that he was himself to blame; and he said he harbored no ill-will to Villemin for what had passed. Returning home, a distance of several leagues on foot, he fell sick and died of a disease of the

chest, which his family choose to ascribe to the blows which he had received from Villemin—which, however, was disproved by the medical witnesses. The deaf-mute was, in the first instance, sentenced to two months' imprisonment; but, on an appeal to the *Cour Royale* of Nancy, in consideration of the unfortunate condition of Villemin, and of the brutal and inconsiderate conduct of Marchand, the term was reduced to six days. — *Ibid.*

PROFESSIONAL NOTABILITIES OF EDINBURGH.

Dr. I. B. Greely, of Nashua, N. H., now in Europe, wrote from Edinburgh late in August to his friends, the editors of the New Hampshire Medical Journal, and from that pleasant monthly the following extracts were taken. The Scotch professors are the medical autocrats of their country. Having no competitors at home, they have none to fear from abroad. Being excellent men in fine positions, a reputation and a chair generally come together. There are several anatomical museums and cabinets in that old city, which all Americans going there should examine. But medicine and surgery are practised in the United States quite as successfully as in the capital of Scotland.

"Scarcely a day passes that I do not hear some of our first men spoken of in the highest terms. It was but yesterday that a distinguished surgeon, in adjusting a fractured femur, made use of Prof. E. K. Sanborn's Splint, which he styled the "great American Splint." In applying at the same time, adhesive straps, as a means of extension, he informed the class that these were "first introduced into practice by an American, Dr. Josiah Crosby, of Manchester, N. H." This is only one instance of an almost daily occurrence, and being the only American here at present, it has gratified me not a little, I assure you, to hear so often a public recognition of the merits of my countrymen.

I may here say that *Wood's Practice of Medicine* is the acknowledged text-book in that department. In fact there is no other in general use.

Professor Miller, the surgeon, is a perfect gentleman and the idol of the students. In his lectures he is clear, fluent, and impressive, dwelling upon the most important points with such energy that they are indelibly fixed in the mind of the hearer. It seems as though

the most obtuse among his listeners could not sit for a single hour, without *imbibing*, to say the least, a vast amount of knowledge. In his manner Prof. Miller is graceful, easy and polite. In his operations, he is cool, skilful and extremely neat, and he explains to the class, as he proceeds, each step which he makes, the anatomical relations which present themselves and the purpose which he has in view.

Next in order is *Syme*, whose world-wide reputation as a surgeon attracts hosts of students to Edinburgh, and whose clinics are attended by probably a larger number than any other lecturer here. Originality, quickness and dexterity are the characteristics of his operations. I may note a few of these peculiar to himself. In amputating a limb, instead of transfixing it with a knife, as is commonly recommended by our surgeons, he makes his flaps by cutting from the surface down upon the bone. By this method, the muscles are not retracted afterwards so far, the flaps are always even and unite more readily by the first insertion.

In excision of the superior maxillary bone, instead of making two long incisions through the cheek, and thus leaving an ugly cicatrix, he makes but one in the mesial line of the upper lip, which, in recovering, leaves but a line, hardly observable. In excision of the elbow joint, he makes an incision into the joint, close above the olecranon, extending from the inner edge of that process to the external tuberosity of the humerus, and at each extremity of this cut he makes another incision about an inch and a half long, both upward and downward in the long direction of the limb, thus giving the entire external incision a resemblance to the letter *H*. He claims as the advantage of this incision over others which have been recommended, a greater safety to the ulna nerve, which lies close upon the inner side of the olecranon.

I must not forget to mention among the celebrities of our profession in Edinburgh, *Dr. W. T. Gairdner*, Professor of the Practice of Physic. Though a young man, he has taken a high position in the practice of Medicine, and has proved himself worthy to fill it with honor. His opinions are respected by all, and his writings are regarded as standard authority. Crowds of students follow him through his wards, busy with their pencils in noting every word and in recording his concise and pertinent suggestions. No one, certainly, could possess a more happy faculty of making a clinical visit so free from formality, so en-

couraging to the patient, and so calculated to remove the agitation, feeling of embarrassment, and dislike which the presence of a physician and a large class of students so frequently inspires. As a lecturer Prof. G. is plain, distinct and comprehensive.

To the American Profession *Dr. Simpson* needs no introduction. During the last three months, I have been so fortunate as to see much of his private practice in this city, and have been surprised continually, not only at his wonderful success in treatment, and accuracy in diagnosis, but at the marvellous amount of labor which he performs. With his house literally crowded with patients from morning till night, no one who was not aware of his habits of midnight study could comprehend at all how he could command a moment's time to prepare the valuable essays which regularly make their monthly appearance from his pen—I have had the pleasure several times of seeing him perform his operation of incision of the cervix uteri for obstructive dysmenorrhœa, and always with perfect success.

I have also seen him use his intra uterine pessaries with marked benefit in many cases, *which have resisted all other treatment*, and notwithstanding the objections made to their use by Dr. Robert Lee, of London, a fair trial, and care in selecting and applying one of the size adapted to each individual case, will, I am sure, convince almost any one of their utility and capability, as a last resort at least, of relieving many patients of this serious trouble.

Dr. Simpson was so kind as to invite me, the other day, to go and visit with him an American lady under his treatment. I have his permission to detail the case. The patient is from New York city, and has had a severe menorrhagia for the last eight years. She has suffered in conjunction with this, a long course of Homœopathic treatment in New York. Her physicians had no clue to her real disease, never proposed the Touch or the speculum, and finally in despair recommended a sea voyage, which luckily brought her to this city. Her husband sent for Dr. Simpson, and judging from the minute history of the case and the condition of the patient, he concluded that she must have a polypus uteri. An examination showed the os uteri closed and of normal size, but on the introduction of the uterine sound a uterine tumor was distinctly felt. The irritation of the sound brought on labor pains, and the tumor was soon forced through the cervix. Dr. S., preferring to let nature remove it if she would, left her in this condi-

tion. The next morning we found the patient very weak, having lost a large amount of blood. The tumor still protruding through the cervix, Dr. S., anticipating danger from longer delay, seized it with a pair of strong lithotomy forceps, and twisted it from its attachments. The hemorrhage ceased at once; under a careful tonic course the patient is rapidly recovering health and strength,—a remarkable instance, upon the whole, of the benefit of a sea voyage in getting rid of a polypus uteri.

Dr. Simpson is attempting the radical cure of ovarian dropsy by establishing a fistulous communication between the cavity of the cyst and that of the peritoneum. He does this by puncturing the enlarged ovary with a trocar and canula in the ordinary way, but allowing only a small portion of the fluids to escape by the canula. This is then withdrawn, and the union of the external wound promoted. By pressing the tumor gently every day he forces a little of the fluid into the cavity of the peritoneum, and thus keeps the wound in the tumor open. I have seen several of Dr. S.'s patients who have been subjected to this mode of treatment with apparent success. One of them has been under treatment many months, the cyst occasionally filling, but easily reduced by gentle pressure, showing that the fissure still remains open."

Vegetable Fountain. — The island of Fierro is one of the largest in the Canary group, and it has a tree, the leaves of which are long and narrow, and continue in constant verdure, winter and summer, and the branches are covered with a cloud which is never dispelled, but, resolving itself into a moisture, causes to fall from its leaves a very clear water, and in such abundance that cisterns placed at its foot to receive it are never empty.

Medical Men Industrious. — Dr. Robert Tomes, who assisted greatly in the preparation of Perry's Japan Expedition, and wrote the article on the subject in a recent number of Harpers' Magazine, is preparing a popular abridgment of the large and expensive work, which will soon be issued by D. Appleton & Co.

Direct Tax on Merchants. — It is said that the Health officer of New York will receive for the three summer months this year, directly and indirectly, fees to the amount of \$100,000.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[For the Medical World.]

BITE OF A SPIDER.

B. S. BRUCE, M. D., OF BOSTON.

Seeing in the Boston Evening Traveller a notice of the death of a young man, by a spider's bite, I am induced to give you the particulars of a case that recently fell under my professional care.

George W. Morgan, Esq., the celebrated London organist at Trinity Church, New York city, who has occasionally delighted the musical connoisseurs of Boston by his artistic skill, was bitten by a spider, the evening previous to leaving New York to fulfil an engagement at the Tremont Temple, a few weeks since.

The evening before, while Mr. Morgan, in the twilight, was walking in the garden of a friend, he felt a sudden bite or sting, and shook from the wrist of his right hand a large spider.

The wound began to inflame directly, attended by pain so severe, that a poultice of linseed flour was applied, which, contrary to expectation, seemed to enhance the inflammation; and it was therefore removed, and a plaster substituted.

By the time of his arrival in Boston the next day, the hand and arm were so much swollen, that it was with the utmost effort he managed to get through with his engagement on the organ. The wound now assumed the appearance of a hard tumor, blue and shining, about the size of a goose egg. The virus had been so generally diffused through the system on the third day, that the whole glandular economy appeared to be affected. Singular fleshy looking tumefactions appeared on parts of the body. One below the left eye was developed as large as the egg of a Canary bird. His features were distorted, and haggard.

These were omens of no very encouraging character. By two o'clock, on the second morning, there were signs of real convalescence. From that hour he began to improve, so that on the fifth day of his confinement at the Tremont House, Mr. Morgan, in a very weak condition, and against the combined remonstrances of myself and his friends, left for New York. A letter of recent date says that his arm is still weak, although decidedly improving.

The death of the young man in Cincinnati is regarded as extraordinary; but there have

been, within our recollection, several fatal instances from the bite of this insect. A man by the name of Barnabas Sanders, of Cambridgeport, Mass., some years since, was bitten by a spider, and expired in agony on the seventh day.

Several physicians were in attendance, but nothing could prevent or stay the poison. There is, we believe, more than one species of spider at the North whose bite is poisonous; but one only the venom of which is deadly, and that, though perhaps not so rapid, is, nevertheless, as fatal as that of the rattlesnake.

The treatment consisted in the immediate application of several leeches near the margin of the puncture, which gave speedy local relief. A brisk cathartic was also administered, and the arm kept enveloped in wet cloths. In short, the medication was strictly antiphlogistic, and eminently successful.

FLOATING FACTS.

Trial of a Deaf Mute for Murder.—In July, 1817,* Jean Campbell, an uneducated deaf and dumb woman, the mother of three children by three different fathers, was charged before the Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh with murdering her child by throwing it over the old bridge at Glasgow. Mr. Robert Kinniburgh, an eminent teacher of the deaf and dumb, was called in as an expert. He understood, from her signs, that she maintained that, having the child at her back, held up by her cloak which she held across her breast with her hands, and being partially intoxicated, she had loosened her hold to see to the safety of some money in her bosom, thus allowing the child to fall over the parapet of the bridge, against which she was resting. She indignantly denied having intended to throw it in the river.

"Mr. Kinniburgh being asked whether he thought she could understand the question, whether she was guilty or not guilty of the crime of which she was accused, answered, that in the way in which he put the question, asking her by signs whether she threw the child over the bridge or not, he thought she could plead not guilty by signs, and this is the only way in which he could so put the question to her; but that he had no idea, abstractly speaking, that

*Beck gives this date 1807, which is a manifest error, as Mr. Kinniburgh, of the Edinburgh Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which was first opened in 1810, was called in the case, and referred to it in his report for 1815.

she knew what a trial was, but that she knew she was brought into court about her child.

"John Wood, Esq., auditor of excise (who is deaf and partially dumb), gave in a written statement upon oath, mentioning that he had visited the prisoner in prison, and was of opinion that she was altogether incapable of pleading guilty or not guilty; that she stated the circumstances by signs, in the same manner she had done to the court, when questioned before the court, by Mr. Kinniburgh, and seemed to be sensible that punishment would follow the commission of a crime.

"The court were unanimously of opinion that this novel and important question, of which no precedent appeared in the law of this country [Scotland], deserves grave consideration, and every information that the counsel on each side could procure and furnish."

"At a subsequent period the judges delivered their opinion as follows:—

"Lord Hermand was of opinion that the panel (prisoner) was not a fit object of trial. She was deaf and dumb from her infancy; had had no instruction whatever; was unable to give information to her counsel, to communicate the names of her exculpatory witnesses, if she had any, and was unable to plead to the indictment in any way whatever, except by certain signs which he considered no pleading whatever."

The four judges, however, overruled this opinion, referring especially to a case (already mentioned in a former part of this paper) that had occurred in England, in 1773, in which one Jones, who had stolen five guineas, appearing to be deaf and dumb, and being found by the jury empannelled on that point to be mute "from the visitation of God," was arraigned by the means of a woman accustomed to converse with him by signs, found guilty and transported. And it was also observed that it might be for the prisoner's own good to have a trial; for if the jury found that her declaration, that she did not intend to throw her child in the river, was true, she would be acquitted and set free; whereas, if not found capable of being tried for a crime, she must be confined for life. The woman Campbell was accordingly placed at the bar, and when the question was put, Guilty or not? "her counsel, Mr. McNeil, rose, and stated that he could not allow his client to plead to the indictment, until it was explained to her that she was at liberty to plead, guilty or not. Upon it being found that this could not be done, the case was dropped, and she was dismissed from the bar *simpliciter*.

Thus, though it is established that a deaf-mute is *doli capax*, no means have yet been discovered of bringing him to trial."

Church and State.—*No Medical Faculty in Trinity College.*—The Medical Faculty of Trinity College, Toronto, Canada West, have resigned their professorships. The reason, as publicly stated in the daily prints of Canada West is, that the Faculty caused an advertisement to be inserted in the local papers, stating that students in medicine henceforth would not be compelled to subscribe to the thirty-nine articles of the Church of England, and that no religious test would be demanded of them. And it was furthermore asserted that pupils could, by following the course of instruction at Trinity, procure, if they pleased, their degrees at any other University. The Council of the College, naturally indignant at this open declaration of rebellion and independence of the Medical Faculty, called upon them to withdraw the obnoxious advertisement from its place of appearing, and to return to their former terms of connection; but the Professors declining to yield, and the difference not being removable in any other way, the latter were constrained to resign their various chairs, which, we believe, they have filled, during the few years they have lectured, in a distinguished and profitable manner.—*Mont. Chronicle*.

Chloroform Vapor in Hemorrhoids.—Dr. Foerest reports a case in which chloroform vapor was applied for several minutes, by the douche, to an excessively painful hemorrhoidal tumor with complete success. The pain was so far allayed as to enable him to return the tumor, which before he was unable to do. In like cases it may prove a valuable remedy.

Ligature of the Internal Iliac Artery.—We understand that Prof. Mott has recently tied this artery for an enormous false aneurism of the gluteal artery. The patient was a healthy young woman, and the aneurism arose from a wound with a penknife through the thick part of the gluteal muscle. This is the second time that this distinguished surgeon has tied this artery; both cases recovered.

Hiccough.—Hold up high above your head two fingers of your hand; lean back in your seat, open your mouth and throat so as to give a free passage to your lungs; breathe very long and softly, and look very steadily at your fingers.

Floral Phenomenon.—In the garden of Dr. Paterson, Bridge of Allan, is a *cactus grandiflora*, which only flowers once in seven years, and then at sunset, closing at daylight in the morning. One evening recently it was observed to put forth its fibres, which gradually extended, until twelve o'clock at night, when it was in full bloom. The fibres surrounding the centre of the flower are stated to have been of a straw color, the heart of the flower being pure white. The doctor, who had been attending Kossuth's lecture in Stirling, returned in time to witness the flower in a state of perfection. During the evening great numbers had flocked to witness it — so much that they had to be admitted by turns. After midnight it gradually faded away, and in the morning the beautiful floral phenomenon had altogether passed away. The plant must undergo a probation of seven years before it again lifts up its adorned head to the still midnight.

A Mesmeric Physician's Bills.—Volume VIII of Cushing's Reports contains an opinion on a case where a mesmeric physician sued a husband for service rendered the wife in his absence. It is to the effect that "the law does not recognize the dreams, visions, or revelations of a woman in the mesmeric sleep as necessities for a wife, for which the husband, without his consent, can be made to pay. These are fancy articles, which those who have money of their own to dispose of may purchase if they think proper; but they are not necessities known to the law, for which the wife can pledge the credit of her husband."

Dietetic Facts.—The breast of a chicken is less heating than the flesh of winged game. Other game — such as venison, which is dark-colored, and contains a large proportion of fibrine — produces highly-stimulating chyle; and consequently, the digestion is an easy and rapid affair for the stomach. But, though the whiter meats be detained longer in the stomach, furnish less stimulating chyle, and be suffered to run into acetous fermentation, their lesser stimulating quality may recommend them when the general system is not in want of a spur. Meats are wholesome or otherwise, less with reference to themselves than to the consumer. "To assert a thing to be wholesome," says Van Swieten, "without a knowledge of the condition of the person for whom it is intended, is like a sailor pronouncing the wind to be fair, without knowing to what port the vessel is bound."

The Bed of the Atlantic.—The U. S. steamer Arctic, which arrived at the Navy Yard on the 14th inst., has sounded the Atlantic all the way across, finding the greatest depth 2,070 fathoms (more than two miles). It was not accomplished without difficulties, as many of the instruments used were new inventions. The bed of the ocean, in the section traversed by the Arctic, is a plateau, as already announced by Capt. Berryman, who had twice before sounded across the Atlantic. The bottom in the deepest part is a very fine mud, of a mouse-gray color, so soft that the sounding instruments frequently sank several feet into the mud. They brought up specimens of the bottom, at every sounding, in quits which were attached to the end of the sounding instrument. Toward the shores on each side, this mud changes into a fine green ooze. No other substance was met with, no rock, nor any thing that might prove fatal to a telegraph wire.

Telescopes.—Prof. Loomis states that it is but twenty-five years since the first telescope, exceeding those of a portable size, was imported into the United States. Now we have one telescope which acknowledges no superior, and several which would be worthy of a place in the finest observatories in Europe. The manufacture of astronomical instruments in this country is carried to a high state of perfection.

Power of Enduring Cold.—The mysterious compensation by which men adapt themselves to the arctic climate. In the Polar zone the assault is immediate and sudden, and, unlike the insidious fatality of hot countries, produces its result rapidly. It requires hardly a single winter to tell who are to be heat-making and acclimatized men, says Dr. Kane. Peterson, for instance, who has resided for two years at Upernavich, seldom enters a room with a fire. Another of our party, George Riley, with a vigorous constitution, established habits of free exposure, and active, cheerful temperament, has so inured himself to the cold, that he sleeps on our sledge, journeys without a blanket, or any other covering than his walking suit, while the outside temperature is 30 degrees below zero.

Gold Nuggets in Ireland.—On the 17th instant the same parties who found the last piece, found the largest piece that ever was found in Ireland—about 2 lbs. weight!—of pure clean gold. It was found in the clay-slate rock.

Intense Cold.—The greatest cold produced in the chemical laboratory is about 150 degrees below zero. At this temperature, carbonic gas becomes a solid substance like snow, and, if touched, it produces just the same effect on the skin as a red-hot cinder, blistering the fingers like a burn. Quicksilver freezes at 40 degrees below zero, that is, 75 degrees below the temperature at which water freezes. This solid mercury may then be treated as other metals, hammered into sheets, or made into spoons; such spoons, however, would melt in water as warm as ice. It is pretty certain that every liquid and gas that we are acquainted with would become solid if exposed to the cold of the regions of space. The gas we light our streets with would appear like wax; oil would be hard as a rock; pure spirit, never yet solidified, would appear like a block of transparent crystal; hydrogen gas would become quite solid and resemble metal.

Demand for Pills.—Fortunes upon fortunes have been made in the United States by pills, to the disgrace of a nation claiming to be intelligent. Every one who has largely embarked in the business, has accomplished his object, by speedily acquiring a competency. Here are statistical calculations in reference to one pill-maker in Massachusetts, who is represented to have already acquired a colossal estate by a bold determination to supply the people with what they prefer next to the staff of life,—quack medicine! Mr. Ayer, of Lowell, manufactures thirty gross per diem of his Cathartic Pills, through the year. This is eight boxes a minute, or one dose a second. We thus find over 43,000 persons swallow this pill every day, or 1,296,000 a month. The professional cash incomes of all the prominent medical practitioners of the State, combined, would scarcely equal his receipts from the enormous sale of these pills alone.

Treatment of a Lunatic.—At the Leicester Lunatic Asylum, (England,) one of the keepers forced a violent lunatic to go into a bath of scalding hot water, from the effects of which he soon after died. The Coroner's Jury requested that the keeper might be "severely reprimanded."

It would speak favorably for the progress of humanity if an annual visitation of these institutions were made, under a special direction from the legislature, in the different States of the Union.

Last Impressions on the Retina.—A very interesting examination was made by Dr. Chas. P. Sandford, of Auburn, N. Y., with a view of testing the truth of an article published some time since by a celebrated English physician and surgeon, which alleged that the last scene viewed by a murdered man would remain impressed upon the retina of the eye, as does the impression upon the daguerreotype or the photograph. There was nothing on the retina examined which would lead to the detection of the victim's murderer, but there was that impression upon it which sufficiently established the fact that the retina of an eye, with a common microscope, reveals a most wonderful as well as a beautiful sight, and that in this instance we discover, as upon a daguerreotype plate, plainly marked impressions at once interesting and startling.

Depth of the North Atlantic.—From the top of Chimborazo to the bottom of the Atlantic, at the deepest place yet reached by the plummet in the North Atlantic, the distance in a vertical line is nine miles. The deepest part of the Atlantic is probably between the Bermudas and the Grand Banks. The waters of the Gulf of Mexico are held in a basin about a mile deep in the deepest part. There is, at the bottom of the sea, between Cape Race in Newfoundland, and Cape Clear in Ireland, a remarkable steppe, which is already known as the telegraphic plateau. The great circle distance between those two shore lines is 1,600 miles, and the sea along this route is probably nowhere more than 10,000 feet deep. The whole distance across was found to be 1,640 sea miles, from St. Johns, Newfoundland, to Valentia Harbor, Ireland. The greatest depth was found nearly in the centre between these two places. The profile of the Atlantic bed, on this route, is of by far easier grade than many of our railroad profiles.

Dining Hours.—In England the hour of dining indicates precisely the rank. The Queen dines at 8 o'clock, P. M.; the ordinary gentlemen at 6; the professional people and richer classes of merchants and manufacturers at 4 or 5; the shopkeepers at 2 or 3; clerks at 1; workmen at 12. As man rises in social importance his dinner hour advances. Some men of humble origin and great luck, have eaten their way from plebian 12, all down the hours of the afternoon, and ended a glorious career by solemnly dining with royalty at 8; splendid reward for the labors of a lifetime.

A Prison governed by Women.—At Neu-dorf, in Austria, there is a prison principally under their control. The inmates are classified as the *desperate*, the *penitent* and the *voluntary*—being in all over two hundred in number. Twelve women, three chaplains, one surgeon, and a physician manage the establishment. The prisoners being females, men are not permitted to reside in the house, but visit it daily.

Scientific Congress of Vienna.—Notwithstanding the habitual policy of the Austrian government, to oppress her own subjects in every possible manner, to impress them with the uncontrolled despotism of the Court, the men of science who assembled the present season at Vienna to deliberate on matters of general science were treated with marked courtesy by the public authorities. Every cabinet and curiosity was thrown open for their pleasure, without a fee or hindrance.

Effects of Worship on the Insane.—An exchange says, on the authority of Miss Dix, the celebrated philanthropist, that among the hundreds of insane people with whom her sacred missions have brought her into companionship, she has not found one individual, however fierce and turbulent, that could not be calmed by Scripture and prayer, uttered in low and gentle tones. The power of religious sentiments over these shattered souls seems miraculous.

Remedy for Sea Sickness.—Mrs. Emma Willard, of Troy, N. Y., proposes a new remedy for this unpleasant ailment, which consists in forcibly expelling the impure air from the lungs, and filling them with pure air. This is her plan:—Make your chest as small as possible by stooping, drawing down your ribs, and pressing your arms to your sides; throw out the air by a violent and long continued exhaling, blowing it up from your mouth as if engaged in blowing up a fire. Then change, make a long and forcible inhalation, opening your chest to its fullest dimensions by standing erect and raising your arms from your shoulders. Three or four of these long forced breaths are sufficient to relieve a severe case of sea-sickness.

Unfortunate Organization.—Some physicians, both in town and country, are so unhappily organized, that their happiness consists in making some one miserable against whom they entertain a personal dislike, on account of the superiority of their talents.

Vulgarity of Business in England.—William Yarrell, Esq., a celebrated naturalist who died on the last day of August, was recommended for the honor of a fellowship in the Royal Society; but, says the Literary Gazette, "owing to the corrupt practice which still in a measure prevails, of disregarding the scientific claims of gentlemen connected with trade, whilst individuals were gaining admission to the Society on account of mere social position or connoisseurship, it was intimated to Mr. Yarrell that he had no chance of success." He was a partner in business through life, but devoted himself almost entirely to the pursuits of science. Being a bachelor and with ample means, he not only gratified his taste, but at the same time greatly enriched the archives of Natural History.

Aerial Echoes.—M. Godard took up a party of excursionists from Philadelphia in his balloon, who enjoyed the trip, which was an extended one, very much. They descended once or twice for refreshments, and continued their aerial voyage into the evening. The passengers say that the scene, as the moon began to rise and tip hill and valley with her silvery beams, was particularly magnificent. One of the peculiarities of this night's ride was the remarkable echo at the height of 10,000 feet. M. Godard sang a song, and each stanza was distinctly sung by the echo, as sweet and melodious as the voice which uttered the words. The party at this altitude could also hear the barking of dogs, and even the cackling of chickens and their maternal progenitors.

A Surgeon turned Actor.—According to the Evening Gazette, that talented, versatile, popular manager of the Bowery Theatre, New York,—John Brougham, Esq.,—is a well qualified Surgeon. John Brougham is a man about whom very little need be said—at least to New Yorkers—since not to know him is to argue oneself wholly unknown in the dramatic, literary, and critical world. He is a rollicking, fun-loving, mirth-provoking Irishman, full of wit and good humor, equally clever as author and actor, and almost without a peer as a successful dramatist. He is of good family, and would have inherited a fine landed estate but for the dishonesty of his mother's agent, who robbed him of nearly all of it. He graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, with distinguished honor, and chose Surgery as a profession, but soon grew tired of its dull routine and unpleasant details. A fortunate escape both for him and the public.

Beethoven's Appearance.—He was five feet four inches (Vienna measure) in height, of compact and sturdy frame, as well as powerful muscles. His head was uncommonly large, covered with long, snarly, almost entirely gray hair, which not seldom hung in disorder about his head. His forehead was high and broad; his small brown eye in smiling drew back almost into his head. But suddenly it dilated to common size, and either rolled and flashed about, the pupil almost always turned upwards, or it did not move at all, and looked fixedly before him, if any idea got possession of him. At such times his whole outward appearance underwent a sudden change, and wore a visibly inspired and imposing aspect, so that his little form seemed to lift itself upward like a giant. In this insignificant bodily husk dwelt a beautiful soul. From the indications given of Beethoven's character, it is plain that he was a thoroughly noble man. All that appeared to him false, low, immoral, or unjust, he hated in his soul. But, on the other hand, worldly prudence and knowledge of men were wholly strange things to him. He flew suddenly into a terrific passion, and as quickly cooled down to a reasonable being. His unfortunate temperament prompted him to acts of injustice, for which he repented on discovering the error. He was very much like some physicians who are so jealous that some other human being may have talents equal to their own, they make themselves wretched in the vain attempt of converting the public to their own hateful sentiments of injustice.

Hahnemann Consulted.—At a meeting of "Spiritualists," an invalid was brought forward dreadfully afflicted with ulcerous scrofula that all the doctors had failed to cure. It was proposed to appeal to the spirit-land for advice, and a Homœopathic physician present interrogated the departed spirit of Hahnemann as to what remedy should be taken. Loud and distinct raps, audible to the whole audience, told off a quack medicine, to the horrification of the party.

An Ice Machine has been completed at Cleveland, Ohio, which is capable of producing one ton of solid crystal ice in twenty hours. A trial has recently been made with the above result, while the mercury stood at 80 degrees in the apartment. The estimated expense of manufacturing ice by such a machine is \$5 per ton, or one-fourth of a cent per pound.

On the Treatment of Pneumonia and Pleurisy.—Professor Niemeyer is much opposed to the employment of general venesection in pneumonia and pleurisy, and only uses it exceptionally with a view to prevent impending suffocation and to facilitate the reflux of the blood from the brain, but not for the purpose of arresting the inflammation. He agrees with Dierh that the convalescence is more rapid in those cases that have been treated without, than those that have been treated with venesection; and he explains the fact by the increase of fibrine, and diminution in the amount of red corpuscles, induced by the venesection. The treatment adopted by Professor Niemeyer consists in the application of compresses wrung out in cold water over the affected part of the thorax, and their renewal as often as they become warm. The great relief experienced by the patient is a sufficient guaranty that the repetition of the application will be carefully attended to. The only internal remedy employed was nitre, in doses of two drachms in the course of twenty-four hours. Although employed at different ages, and in various forms of the disease, no metastasis or other evil consequences have ever been noticed by the author. He has seen persons, attacked with very tumultuous symptoms, enabled by this treatment to return to their occupation on the seventh day after seizure. Professor Niemeyer recommends an early exhibition of steel in the convalescence from the diseases under consideration.—*Prager Vierteljahrsschrift.*

Review of Death's Doings.—Scientific writers assert that the number of persons who have existed since the beginning of time, amounts to 36,627,843,275,075,845. These figures, when divided by 3,095,000, (the number of square leagues of land on the globe,) leave 11,320,689,782 square miles of land on the globe, and which, being divided as before, gives 134,622,976 persons to each square mile. Let us now reduce miles to square rods, and the number will be 1,853,174,600,000, which, being divided as before, will give 1,283 inhabitants to each square rod; this, reduced to feet, will give about five persons to each square foot of terra firma. Thus it will be perceived that our earth is one vast cemetery. 1,283 human beings lie buried on each square rod—scarcely sufficient for ten graves. Each grave must contain 128 persons. Thus it is easily seen that the whole surface of the globe has been dug over 128 times to bury its dead.

Destructive Ingenuity of Wolves. — Two large wolves are sufficient to destroy the most powerful horse, and seldom more than two ever begin the assault, although there may be a score in the gang. It is no less curious than amusing to witness this ingenious mode of attack. If there is no snow, or but little on the ground, two wolves approach in the most playful and caressing manner, lying, rolling, and frisking about, until the too credulous and unsuspecting victim is put off his guard by curiosity and familiarity. During this time the gang, squatting on their hind quarters, look on at a distance. After some time spent in this way, the two assailants separate, when one approaches the horse's head, the other his tail, with a shyness and cunning peculiar to themselves. At this stage of the attack their frolicsome approaches become very interesting; it is in right good earnest; the former is a mere decoy, the latter is the real assailant, and keeps his eye steadily fixed on the ham-strings or flank of the horse. The critical moment is then watched, and the attack is simultaneous; both wolves spring at their victim, at the same instant — one to the throat, the other to the flank — and if successful, which they generally are, the hind one never lets go his hold till the horse is completely disabled. Instead of springing forward or kicking to disengage himself, the horse turns round and round without attempting a defence. The wolf before, then springs behind, to assist the other. The sinews are cut, and, in half the time I have been describing it, the horse is on his side; his struggles are fruitless — the victory is won. At this signal the lookers-on close in at a gallop; but the small fry of followers keep at a respectable distance, until their superiors are gorged, and then they take their turn unmo- lested.

Albuminuria. — M. Mauthner, in the albuminuria and dropsy after scarlatina, in children, recommends the exclusive use of a milk or rice-milk diet. Under its influence he says, an abundant urinary flux becomes established, which causes the disappearance of the dropsy; but should it not suffice for the cure, he would seek to modify the urinary secretion by the use of alkalies. He recommends urea to be given in such cases, in doses of one-third of a grain, mixed with sugar. When a dose of six or eight grains is arrived at, he says, it occasions an abundant secretion of urine, and rapid disappearance of the dropsy. — *Bull. Gen. de Therap.*

PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL WORLD.

The following publications, which are proper appendages to a medical library, will soon be on sale in New York and Boston, on being published in London, viz.:—

Advanced Text-Book of Geology, and Hay-Dictionary of Dates.

Prof. Syme's Principles of Surgery, revised.

N. Baikie's Exploring Voyage up the Rivers Kwora and Tsadda.

Ferrier's Caravan Journeys and Wanderings in Persia, Afghanistan, Turkistan, and Beloochistan.

Hamilton's Wanderings in Northern Africa, Benghazi, Cyrene, and the Oasis of Siwah.

Flora of New Zealand, by Joseph Dalton Hooker, M. D.

An Essay on Spermatorrhœa, by a member of the Royal College of Physicians.

Treatment and Cure of Diseases incidental to a Sedentary Life, by Wm. Pearce.

The Pharmaceutical Latin Grammar, to assist students in reading the Pharmacopœia and medical prescriptions.

Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro, with Curious Remarks on the Vocabularies of the Amazonian Languages, by R. G. Latham, M. D.

Natural History of Man, 4th edition, with six Ethnographical Maps, by J. C. Prichard, M. D., with Notes, by E. Morris of the Royal Asiatic Society.

Manual of Practical Assaying, a valuable work for young medical men, in travelling, inasmuch as it teaches them how to explore and determine the character and quality of metallic ores, &c.

A new and improved edition of Quekett's Treatise on the Microscope.

Races of Men, by Dr. Knox.

A Manual of Artistic Anatomy, by Robert Knox, M. D.

Throat Ailments, a sixth edition, by James Yearsley, M. D.

Nomos — a work attempting to demonstrate a central physical law in nature.

Western Himalaya and Thibet, abounding in curious information, it being the narrative of travels and explorations in those countries, by Thomas Thompson, M. D., illustrated.

Treatment of the Insane without mechanical Restraints, by John Connolly, M. D.

Debility, Irritability, Mental and Physical, by T. H. Yeoman, M. D.

Lectures on the Principles and Methods of Medical Observation and Research, &c., by Thomas Laycock, M. D.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 12, 1856.

MEDICAL LECTURES IN BOSTON.—An introductory discourse was given at the College, on Wednesday last, by Dr. Clark, which was well received by an audience principally of medical and literary gentlemen of the city. It was a plain, sensible, well-written lecture, abounding in excellent sentiment and suggestions. A progressive spirit was recognized in it, which might have met with some friction on its transit from the chair to society, had the same expressions, in regard to the use of medicine, emanated from some other source. Possibly, we misunderstood Dr. Clark; and if so, then the Mercantile Journal labored under the same mistake, in reporting the following sentence:—

"The principal point of the lecture was to show that drugs, of themselves, as a rule, were not inherently curative agents, and that they were not so used by intelligent physicians. They might aid, but the main reliance was in the natural recuperative power of nature."

If some men had uttered those words, they might have been accused of being no better than homœopaths, recusants, medical disorganisers, and other unpopular names. However, it is apparent that the doctrine of liberality and toleration, in the Schools of Medicine, is to be recognized. That will lead to professional kindness, sympathy and true progress, besides effectually breaking up and breaking down the strong holds of empiricism.

While we congratulate Dr. Clark on the favorable impression made upon the assembly, we are also gratified with the prospects of the institution, the ensuing lecture season. There ought to be three hundred students in attendance, where the advantages for receiving an accomplished medical education are so complete in all respects.

Prof. Cook, says report, will not lecture the present term, in Grove street; and further, that the course on Medical Chemistry is to be delivered by Dr. Bacon and Mr. C. W. Eliot.

RESOURCES OF MODERN SURGERY.—In looking over the statistics of surgical operations, in various countries, the following bold efforts to save life by the excision of enormous tumors, seem to be without parallel. Other cases may have occurred as formidable in appearance, but they are not recollected, if heretofore noticed in medical records.

Heo Loo, a Chinese, sailed from his home in the Central Flowry Nation, some years since, for London, to avail himself of the chirurgical skill of a surgeon attached to Guy's Hospital. An operation was solicited for the removal of a large scrotal tumor, requiring one hour and forty minutes for its completion. It was ad-

mirably performed, but the patient was dead on removing him from the table.

While Clot Bey was residing in Egypt, under the special patronage of Mahomed Ali, he removed a similar tumor from a patient in the hospital of Alexandria, that weighed *one hundred and ten pounds!* The whole external genital apparatus was necessarily sacrificed. The poor fellow was induced to submit to the terrible trial to save those organs. Strange as it may appear, after passing through this scene, he entirely recovered.

Being laid on the table, the operation was commenced by turning the tumor upon the abdomen, over which was laid a board, elevated sufficiently to prevent pressure on the abdominal viscera. A large flap was next dissected posteriorly, intended for a covering of the testes. The tumor was then brought forward, and a square flap saved as a protection to the organ above, and the mons veneris, still above that, secured, by dissecting upon either side. All this was rapidly accomplished, and although several veins and arteries were cut, and the blood spirted from them freely, a simple pressure of the finger easily controlled the hæmorrhage. The expert surgeon, at this stage, sought in the huge mass before him, thus exposed, for the penis. On finding it, a staff was introduced down through a kind of deep fissure, which was then directed into the urethra. He then made a bold cut, four inches deep, down to the concealed organ, and completely dissected away from it the surrounding growth. Two other deep incisions exposed the spermatic cords and testes, which were liberated by the knife in the same manner, without injury to either of them. Hydrocele was found to exist in both tunica vaginalis.—These were punctured, and hydatids discovered in both sacs.

Thus exposed, the transparent tunics, the spermatic chords, the corpora cavernosa and spongiosa, covered with a delicate ligamentous sheath, presented a very beautiful appearance to the eye of an anatomist, on account of the living activity recognized in each individual organ. Finally, with a few adroit sweeps of the scalpel, the tumor was completely and thoroughly dissected away, and the sufferer liberated.

Twenty minutes only were required to complete the operation, from the beginning to the end. The loss of blood was thirty ounces. Being removed to a cot, the patient's pulse was weak for a few hours; but before evening, the beat was strong and full. No stimulants given. Some trouble of minor importance, however, occurred in healing the wound. There was a partial union by the first intention, at one point, and some sloughing in another direction. But charcoal and vigilant attention soon put matters in good condition. In circumference, the tumor was fifty-six inches.

In referring to these cases, as remarkable in the annals of surgery, it would be injustice, indeed, not to notice a similar operation, performed at New Orleans, some years since, by Dr. Picton, upon a negro,

that was eminently successful. The tumor, when excised, weighed somewhere about fifty pounds, and the patient perfectly recovered. It made a sensation among surgeons at the time, who, with one accord, considered it a brilliant performance.

Scrotal enlargements, which take the name of *scrotal elephantiasis*, are of rather frequent occurrence in the British East India possessions. Several cases are figured in the journals, where the sufferer trundles a light wheel-barrow before him, in which the tumor rests. But as operations are too frequently deferred till life and death are before those who are so unfortunate as to have these elephantine enlargements, the operations are by no means always successful. As far back as 1835, Mr. Goodeve, a company surgeon, successfully removed a scrotal tumor weighing *fifty-six pounds*, in the same neighborhood where Mr. Brett's case was found, but his patient died, from the shock it gave the nervous system, it was supposed. Quite philosophically, Mr. Goodeve observes: "Failure in such a case is entirely a question of that inexplicable quality, *vitality*. One patient may enjoy a sufficient degree of vital force to bear that under which another will expire."

CHEERFULNESS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH.—By reading the following narrative of the manner of accomplishing a surprising amount of labor in a very short time, in Egypt, some conception may be formed of the nature of an absolute despotism.

An immense body of ignorant Arabs were gathered from the villages between the Nile and the Deserts on either side, from whence they were never allowed to go without permission. Every object, away from home, on the business for which they were drafted, was a source of excitement. No wages are paid them for government service, and only miserable food ordinarily provided.

When the canal leading from lake Meriotis to Atfe, on the Nile, was constructed by Mahomet Ali, father of the present Viceroy, Said Pasha, twenty thousand persons perished in a single year. They had no tools provided, scarcely food enough to sustain life, and, worst of all to them, not a ray of hope was held out that they should ever return to their mud homes.

Influenced, no doubt, by the advice of the medical counsellors in the service of his present terrible Highness, the entire confidence reposed in his word, that they should return to their families, not only encouraged the poor fellows to great exertion, but they were cheerful while fulfilling their task. Without hope, the first element of energy, the nervous system would have been prostrated, and the mortality equalled that awful waste of human life which occurred at the original construction. We have twice passed through the Mahmoudieh canal in a sail-boat, and distinctly recollect that it needed the deepening and widening it has had.

The Mahmoudieh Canal, fifty miles long, was cleaned out in the space of twenty-two days. The work commenced on the 10th of April, was finished by the 5th of May, and his Highness the Viceroy made the first journey upon it two days after in his dahalieh.

Towards the close of last February, his Highness the Viceroy made known his intention to have the canal cleaned out, it having never been thoroughly dredged since it was first constructed, in 1819. It was his desire that the interruption thus caused should not last longer than a month. M. Mogeul Bey, one of the engineers of his Highness, drew up the necessary estimate, and found that to complete the work within that space would require the employment of 67,000 men, on the supposition that there were three millions of cubical metres of deposit to clear away, and that each man could remove one and a half cubical metres a day. His Highness, who personally superintended every detail of the requisite arrangements, issued orders in accordance, which were transmitted to the Moudirs, (prefects), the Nazers (sub-prefects), and Scheiks-el-beled (mayors of villages). Each locality was to furnish its contingent, and it was understood that the men might withdraw home as soon as the portion of work assigned to them was completed; the sooner their task was accomplished, the sooner would they be at liberty. This acted as a premium for the encouragement of activity, and as the harvest time was at hand—the end of April being the usual period for it, the natives felt the importance of making haste and instead of sending the number of men asked for, the authorities dispatched almost twice as many—namely, 115,000. They were all men in their full vigor; there were no boys.

As each party came upon that portion of the ground to which they had been directed, they found posts and upright staffs planted out to mark the exact space to which they were to confine their labors, and the number of cubic metres they had to turn over. There was a shovel, or a pickaxe, according to the nature of the work, to every five men. One handled the tool, another filled the koups (a kind of basket, roughly fashioned out of palm leaves), and the remaining three carried the loads away, running at full speed. A considerable number of them were immersed up to their waists in water, a number of springs having been laid open in every direction, by the sides of the canal falling in over the greater part of its extent, the earth of which they are formed possessing little consistency, composed as it is of the Nile sediment, which constitutes the soil of the whole line of coast.

The work proceeded amidst shouts of merriment. The workmen vied with each other as to who should display the greatest activity, and they exerted themselves with all their might, amidst the sounds of musical instruments. Each province, each village had brought its band of musicians for gala days—the same who figure at every public ceremony, at the celebration of births, circumcisions and marriages, at the festivals of the santos, &c. When the engineers or other persons in authority passed by, inspecting their progress, they were greeted on all sides by the customary salutation, "God preserve your days!" Every morning fresh biscuit was regularly distributed. This was the special portion of the expense borne by the government. In addition, markets were established at intervals, where the fellahs could obtain onions, nuts, dates, figs, cheese, eggs, &c. The whole scene presented the appearance of one continuous festival.

Thanks to the precaution taken by those in author-

ity, and the good temper preserved by the workmen, no mortality occurred among so enormous a multitude, all sleeping under the canopy of heaven. The seven medical chiefs of the seven provinces assembled, were in attendance with their assistants and devoted their skill and attention to the small number of men who required them. Some ground for apprehension existed, on account of the unfavorable state of things then prevailing, as numerous cases of typhus had broken out at Alexandria, and there were also some cases of cholera even. The wind of the desert, the Khamsin, had blown during part of the month of April. It was called to mind, moreover, that at the time when the canal was first excavated, several thousand men had perished—a catastrophe which, it is true, was caused by the neglect of proper precaution and foresight. There was still room to fear the outbreak of some unexpected epidemic, whatever amount of vigilance might be exercised. On this occasion, however, all passed off in the best possible manner, with hearty impulse, cheerfulness, and thorough success; the work was completed in perfect style and with scarcely any sacrifice. The Mahmoudieh is now quite a new canal; it has been cleaned out, widened and deepened; the draught of water throughout the fifty miles averages from 4 feet 11 inches to 16 feet 4 7-8 inches. At the low water line it is 81 feet 9 3-8 inches in breadth, and 40 when the Nile waters are at their highest.

By special order of the Viceroy, a carriage-road has been added to the original canal, 32 feet 7 3-4 inches broad, and formed of muddy deposit, dried and hardened in the sun. Near Atfe, at the mouth of the canal, there stood immediately in the line of this new road, some four or five hundred huts, built a long time since. In one night the fellahs by whom they were inhabited pulled them all down, and the next morning they were replaced by a superb avenue, perfectly straight and level. This was the only occasion, it must be added, on which they were allowed to work at night, although in their zeal they frequently solicited permission to do so.

FOUNDLING HOSPITALS OF FRANCE.—In Naples, an infant may be put into a revolving basket, at the back side of the building, and whirled inside, where it is received and no questions asked. We were once present when a beautiful babe was thus received. This is the way in France:

The one located in Paris is situated on the frontier of the city, and is a large and well constructed edifice. The interior is kept exceedingly tidy—the floors of polished oak, and the walls of plaster polished like glass. The babies are kept in cradles covered with white drapery and ranged in rows along the rooms. A separate apartment is allotted to children affected by eye diseases, and another for sick children, both extremely well arranged. Children are now received into the hospital only when the parents sign a paper resigning them to the care of the State. If healthy they are allowed to remain in the hospital but a short time, being sent into the country and placed in the care of nurses, who receive one or two dollars a month. After two years of country nursing they are brought back to Paris and transferred to the hospital for orphans. There are on the average nine hundred children in the hospital, and as many as thirteen thousand out at nurse in the country. There are one hundred and fifty foundling hospitals in France.

Whenever a woman desires to abandon her child, she appears before a magistrate for that purpose; he is obliged to accept the child if she demands it. If she will keep it, he is impowered to give her aid. If the child is abandoned, the clothes are saved, or some token is kept, by which to maintain the identity of the child, and to enable the parents to reclaim it, if they wish to do so at any future time. In former times government made it easy for a mother to rid herself of her child—it being only necessary for her to take the child to the hospital during the night, place it in a box and ring the bell, when it was at once drawn into the institution and no questions asked. This arrangement was abolished some years ago, for the avowed reason that it encouraged vice, but really because such numbers of children were abandoned that the cost to the state was enormous. The crime of infanticide, however, has greatly increased since the change was made.

OIL OF MUSTARD IN RHEUMATISM.—Where one third of the male population complain to some extent, of rheumatic pains, in the fickle climate of New England, but more especially along the sea-shore, physicians have it in their power to mitigate an immense amount of severe suffering by prescribing the volatile oil of mustard. It is employed as a rubefacient, being first diluted in its own weight of alcohol at 40 degrees.

Some patients may object to its pungent odor, but that is temporary, while the remedy may in some cases prove a permanent cure. Make the application at least twice a day, and protect the part with soft flannel.

Mustard mills are in operation in the cities generally, at which the oil may be procured, it being an article not much in demand in the arts. Were it not for detecting it by a pungent odor, this oil would have become a secret remedy for rheumatic pains, years ago. A nostrum loses its miraculous efficiency and curative properties on becoming known.

PREVALENCE OF SMALL POX.—There would not be a single case on this continent, were the advice and admonitions of the medical fraternity heeded. They offer a positive antidote, but millions upon millions of people disregard the blessing, and thus suffer themselves, needlessly, while they propagate the plague, so that it is one of the destroying angels of this country.

Cities protect their own inhabitants, in a degree, by obliging children to be vaccinated before enjoying the benefits of free school instruction; yet the parents, in numberless instances remonstrate against a compulsory protection, because, forsooth, *they don't believe in the efficacy of kine pock!* How provoking, to be obliged to argue with an obstinate father, for his child's good. If every legislative body in the thirty-one States compelled young and old, under a penalty of one hundred dollars, to be protected by vaccination, small-pox would soon lose its terror in the land.

PROFESSIONAL EMINENCE.—Biography reveals the curious fact that every man of distinguished reputation in the medical ranks of this country, had immense difficulties to surmount before achieving a position.

There are very many who exercise a controlling influence in society, who shine altogether in borrowed light. They are indebted to family circumstances for what they are permitted, by the courtesy of society to enjoy, in the way of a professional standing, out of respect perhaps to the superior virtues, genius or wealth of an uncle or father. But the really marked men, those who are actually known extensively, are rarely indebted to family influences.

Genius will command the admiration of the world, and envy cannot circumvent it. There may be such hateful watchfulness over the actions of a talented physician, of growing renown, and such malign determinations through various combinations brought to bear upon him, as to partially circumscribe his movements, limit his circle of action, and deprive him of honors due to merit. But the strongest walls give way way in the end, and the oppressed go free.

There are several grades recognized by the people, among medical practitioners; viz., the laborious; the slothful; the mischief-making; the hereditary heirs to business, property and character; the extremely genteel, or fancy doctors, and those who, being wiser than either, address themselves to the intelligence of all mankind. They will live in coming ages.

REVIEWING NEW WORKS.—That quaint advice from a celebrated writer, "never to look at a book which you review" is doubtless conscientiously observed by many of the modern school of reviewers. Very extraordinary sentiments are advanced in reference to the style and prospective utility of certain medical treatises, in quarters, where they deserve better treatment; while inferior bantlings, not worth the paper on which they are printed, are represented to be monuments of the genius and learning of their stupid authors. There is nothing like having a friend at court. It accounts for many wonderful displays of literary and scientific discrimination. Faint praise has its origin in the mental debility of those who utter it.

MEDICAL ETHICS.—Like matrimony, says a snarling, philosopher, they keep those who dislike each other, from quarrelling in public, in violation of heaven's first law,—order. Doctors of law and divinity live on good terms with those pursuing the same vocation; while doctors of physic are accused of requiring stringent regulations to keep them on terms of civility. This is supposed to grow out of the same dilemma that makes two dogs growl over a bone. Both want it at the same time. If this is slander,

then those who comment thus severely on modern medical ethics, ought to practise better than they preach.

MARRIAGES.

J. A. D'Abranches to Miss G., daughter of Dr. W. Bodenhamer, of New York. Clark Wright, M. D., of New York, to Miss H. Sherman. Dr. John W. Green, of New York, to Miss C. E. Morton.

Dr. Geo. W. Morris, of South Carolina, to Miss A. M. Watts.

Dr. S. L. Wiswell, of Hyde Park, N. Y., to Miss S. J. Crosby.

DEATHS.

In Portland, California, Dr. Francis Panton, 36; at South Berwick, Me., Joseph B. Montague Gray, M. D., an eminent classical scholar, a native of England; at Tarrytown, N. J., Dr. Stephen D. Beekman, 76.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 1.

Ellen O'Brien 1 day, John Rogers 30 yrs., Julia Coffee 2 do., Bridget Cleary 28 do., Frederick W. Field 7 do., Honora O'Brien 24 do., Timothy Driscoll 3 do., Mary Lawless 19 do., Mary E. Smith 3 do., John Donahoe 2 do., Ellen Cunningham 21 do., Alice C. Spear 30 do., Willie H. Coffin 5 do., John L. Haynes 40 do., Martin E. Derrick 20 do., Hugh McLaughlin 18 mos., Thomas McLaughlin 10 do., John Hennessy 4 do., John Clifford 6 do., Alice E. Harvey 8 do., James H. Kilbride 15 do., Ellen Gibbs 24 yrs., James Scofield 30 do., Mary A. Thorndike 34 do., Joseph Sullivan 6 do., Ellen Crowley 60 do., Patrick Kehoe 35 do., Edwin F. Sanborn 20 mos., Dennis Murphy 38 yrs., Charles Clifford 29 do., child of James and Margaret Doyle 2 days, Catherine Ford 1 mo., Mary A. Weston 4 mos., James Todd 15 do., Charles W. Parshley 19 do., Francis Moreland 13 do., Elizabeth A. Piercy 10 do., Ellen Clifford 30 yrs., Patrick Fay 58 do., Mary Carrol 18 do., Meriam M. Eaton, 18 do., Samuel Oakley 50 do., Catherine Nolan 6 do., Lucretia Fuller, 54 do., Helen McCrudy 4 do., James Fitzgerald 5 do., John M. Gibson 67 do., Joseph S. Rogers 45 do., Dorothy Wiggin 38 do., child of Calvin G. and Susan H. Page 1 day, Mary Curley 1 do., Margaret Fagan, 14 mos., Margaret Beitz 5 do., Joseph L. L. Hunt 16 do., Mary E. Robinson 10 do., Ann Landy 47 yrs., Mary Gough 36 do., Catherine V. Field 10 do., Thomas O'Leary 38 do., John Kelly 25 do., Joseph Newell 90 do., Maria Gibbins 33 do., Richard B. Nagle 34 do., Pamela S. Gifford 20 do., Elizabeth Banister 53 do., Robert T. Danforth 20 mos., Georgiana P. Hamilton 9 do., Fanny Nicholson 15 do., Varnum B. Heald 24 yrs., Leonard Purdy 22 do., Sarah M. Erskine 26 do., Ann Maguire 50 do., Elizabeth Whelan 30 do., James G. Cosgriff 14 do., Mary E. Buchalman 12 mos.

DISEASES.—Apoplexy 2, disease of brain 2, consumption 19, croup 3, dysentery 3, dropsy 3, dropsy in head 3, infantile diseases 4, diseases puerperal 3, unknown diseases 2, typhoid fever 2, scarlet fever 10, inflammation of lungs 7, teething 3; other diseases 1 each, 9; total 75. Born in United States 51 Ireland 20, other foreign places 4.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

NOVEMBER 19, 1856.

NUMBER 8

LAWS OF REPRODUCTION

CONSIDERED WITH REFERENCE TO THE INTER-
MARRIAGE OF NEAR BLOOD-RELATIONS.

BY CHARLES BROOKS,

Of Medford, Mass. Read before the A. A. for the Advancement of Science, in 1855.

Whether the intermarriage of near blood-relations is accordant with, or opposed to, the laws of nature, is a question which should be confined primarily to physiological science. Believing it to be important that scientific men should examine it, I take the liberty of inviting to it the attention of the Association, any of whose naturalists are better able than I am to discuss it; and some of whom could so examine and so decide as to put the question at rest. The improvement and prosperity of thousands of families depend on its solution; and, in a degree, the safety and elevation of society.

It is my purpose only to indicate *the course of inquiry*, and not to draw conclusions. When the facts shall have been collected and arranged, then the fixed and benignant laws which underlie the great agencies of reproduction will be evolved. It is only by wide and thorough surveys that any reliable statements can be reached.

In examining the children of first-cousins, the temperaments of the parents must be specially considered; for it is thought that, where the temperaments are alike, the consequences are sure to be peculiarly disastrous; but where they are directly opposite, such consequences will not so appear. These results so much depend on temperaments, that they should always be classified accordingly.

Another circumstance to be regarded in these investigations is, the antecedents of the parents. Have any of their ancestors married first-cousins? and, if so, when did such marriages exist, and what were the health, pursuits, and character of the parties?

Other circumstances should be noted; such

as climate, situation, and food. The effects may vary somewhat in high and low latitudes, in eminently civilized and eminently barbarous communities; and also where the marrying parties have indulged, through their youth, in great varieties of food; or where, as on small islands, and in the deep forests, they have been restricted to a fixed routine of meagre dishes.

Taking these and other related circumstances into view, we may begin to classify the facts thus:—

First. Those children, born of first-cousins, who are well-developed in body, and vigorous in mind.

Second. Those feeble or peculiar in body only.

Third. Those feeble or peculiar in mind only.

Fourth. Those feeble or peculiar in body and mind.

The only way of settling the question is to take the census of a State. Take, for example, all the parents in Massachusetts who have married first cousins; if a larger number of their children are found to die early, or to want a full development of body or mind, than the children of the same number of parents who have not married first-cousins, this will show that first-cousins should not marry together. Take one thousand couples who have married first cousins; if more of the children of these parents are found to be imbecile, or defective in body or mind, than the children of *any* one thousand couples in the State found in similar conditions of life, this will prove that the marriage of such cousins is unwise. Again, if out of one thousand couples who have married first-cousins, there be particular families who have two, three, or even four children that seem weak or strange, then this fact would be a strong presumption against the expediency of marriage between such near blood-relations. Nothing but a true census can furnish adequate elements for a just calculation. Suppose one hundred thousand married couples in Mas-

sachusetts, and that five thousand of them have married first-cousins. Then suppose that there are six thousand children, among all who have been born from them, who appear different from the rest. They are either weakly in body, or peculiar in mind, and seem strange to their neighbors; some perhaps were born blind, some deaf; some with too many fingers and toes, and some with too few; some without hair, and some with too much; some talking in a strange way, and dressing in a stranger; some abhorring society, and some abhorring solitude. Suppose these six thousand persons are acknowledged to be different from the rest of mankind. Now, if more of them are children of first-cousins than the proportion which five thousand bear to one hundred thousand, then it is plain that the marriage of first-cousins is productive of disastrous consequences. To state the same fact in a shorter form: if one hundred thousand couples have six thousand imbecile or peculiar children, then five thousand couples should have three hundred of them, as their proportion. If by an *adequate* census it shall appear that the five thousand couples who married first-cousins have from three hundred and fifty to four hundred imbecile or peculiar children, then it will be proved that the marriage of first-cousins is forbidden of God.

It would be a lasting glory to any scientific philanthropist who should collect and arrange all the facts existing in any State of this Union. The field of inquiry is narrowed by certain facts. The Roman Catholic Church, by positive statute, forbids the intermarriage of first-cousins. England condemns it; and the people there have some strong and harsh sayings concerning it. The Quakers forbid such marriages; and some cantons of Switzerland have forbidden them by law. Tradition, in this country, brings down to us two or three sayings on this subject, which most emphatically condemn such alliances.

I would now state a few representative facts, merely to indicate the course of inquiry. I shall confine myself to cases of children, born of first-cousins, who appear to be in a partly abnormal state of body or mind. There seems to have been in them an arrest of normal development; they lack that entire and symmetrical unfolding or equilibrium of the physical, intellectual, and moral powers which constitute a *whole* man. For obvious reasons I shall give only the initials of proper names, and also of towns.

I. Instances of children, born of first-cousins, who lack normal development of *body*.

A physician writes me thus: "I have been a practising physician for more than fifty years, and I have not the least doubt that a large portion of the hereditary diseases which afflict certain families are derived from the intermarriages of close relations; for I have noticed that some families are predisposed to some particular disease; and where families intermarry with those of the same temperament, the strength of that predisposition is doubled."

Mr. C. H., of N., Mass., a shrewd and healthy man, married his first-cousin, an intelligent and healthy woman. They lost three children in infancy; and they have four now living, no one of them bright.

Dr. C., of N. M., New Hampshire, married his first cousin, Miss B., of U., Mass. They had only two children, and both of them died in infancy.

Mr. J. P., of W., married his first-cousin. Both were in good health, and had active minds. Two sons died before the age of twenty-five; one daughter has diseased eyes; one boy is club-footed; one son died an idiot; and one daughter, who was like common children, married, and at the birth of her first child she died.

Rev. Mr. B., Episcopal clergyman, of B., N. Y., married his own cousin; they had two children, both of whom died young.

A gentleman of W., M. County, New York, married his first cousin. Both these parents were strong and healthy. They had several children, all bright-minded, but each one was a cripple.

N. and S. W., of T., are brothers. One married his first-cousin. Their children are bleary-eyed, and feeble in mind. The other married a woman not related to him. Their children are stout, healthy, and bright.

In Adams, Jefferson Co., New York, there are two idiots, born of first-cousins. The head of the eldest, twenty years old, measures but nineteen inches; the other, only seventeen inches.

A lady furnishes the following: "Mr. B., of W., married his first-cousin; had two children, both deaf and dumb. Mr. L., of W., married his first-cousin; had two children, both blind. Mr. D., of C. E., married his own cousin; had three children, all hermaphrodites."

In Virginia, where blood-relations have intermarried much, in order to keep the property in the family, there are striking illustrations. One statement from a gentleman of Fredericksburg will suffice as a specimen. He says:

"A certain family of wealth and respectability have intermarried for many generations, until there cannot be found in three or four of them a sound man or woman. One has sore eyes, another scrofula, a third is idiotic, a fourth blind, a fifth bandy-legged, a sixth with a head about as large as a turnip, with not one out of the number exempt from physical or mental defects. Yet they persevere in intermarrying, although these monuments are constantly before them."

Mr. P., of W., Mass., a fine-looking man, with strong health and good intellect, married his first-cousin, a lady of sound constitution and bright mind. One of their children was club-footed, another was idiotic, another sick and irritable, another near-sighted, another blind, and the rest feeble. Shall we say that these effects are only accidental, where there are such parents?

S. L., of A., married his first-cousin, Miss S. A. They had eight sons and two daughters. Two sons and one daughter are unable to walk. The youngest child is deaf and dumb.

On islands, small and far removed from the mainland, they are apt to marry in and in. A physician from such an island writes me thus: "On the southeast extremity of the island of C. there existed a small settlement of people, who, in consequence of a sharp quarrel with the main island, kept separated from it. The consequence was that they married in and in, till they had nearly all become blood-relations; and by degrees they wasted in intellect, and became extinct. Their physiognomy was thin, and with some peculiarities of form. Two were born totally destitute of eyeballs. Their heads were very large, with an abundance of hair that covered their foreheads almost down to the eyebrows. On another island there is a family, the parents first-cousins. There are four children, three sons and one daughter. The oldest son, who died recently, aged forty, had a peculiar organization: head very large, with hair growing over his forehead, and down his neck; eyes very large, and so constantly rolling that he could not fix his gaze for two seconds upon any object. He could not articulate, his tongue being too large. He had five fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot. He knew enough to load and draw a hand-cart, and was exceedingly penurious. The second son is no way peculiar. The third son is an incomprehensible being, with an organization somewhat like his eldest brother. He has all kinds of sense, except common; talks much and strangely, and in walking takes

immensely long steps. The only daughter partakes of the influence. She has prayed the most of her time during the last ten years. In O. there is a family, parents first-cousins; they had thirteen children, and all, except one, died young. No one lived over twenty years, except the one yet living, who resembles a corpse. On another part of the island is a family, of whom the parents are *not* first-cousins; but they are closely connected by blood, through a chain of intermarriages reaching back several generations. Within the last ten years," says the physician, "I have delivered the mother of four full-grown boys, three of whom were entirely destitute of eyeballs, although they had very deep sockets for eyes. Their heads were very large, and deformed on the front and top; one exceedingly so. Two of them died immediately after birth, and the other lived but a few hours."

II. Having adduced these facts, as specimens of the many I have gathered, it will not be necessary to add to them a large number which show an absence of normal development in the *intellectual faculties*.

Mr. E. S. and wife, of N., Mass., are first-cousins, both of sound mind and robust health. They had seven daughters and one son. Three daughters are deranged, and the rest are nervous.

Mr. T. A. married his cousin. They had five daughters, some of whom were far from brilliant, and two of them were cripples.

Mr. N. G., from D., New Hampshire, counted twenty-five families within his knowledge where cousins had intermarried, and he says that "not one of their children is above mediocrity."

Dr. H. W. says: "I know four brothers who married cousins, and each has a fool in his family."

Judge C., of H., New York, married his cousin. Out of several children, three were idiots. One only is living, and he has good sound sense.

Mr. E., of M., Mass., married his first-cousin. They have five daughters and three sons. One daughter is an idiot, and two are feeble-minded. One son has run away with the town's money.

A lady from Illinois stated to me the following facts:—"Two brothers married two sisters, and I knew them. The husbands were not blood-relations of their wives. The parties were healthy and intelligent. These families lived near together on a retired country farms, and had few neighbors. There were many

children, and all of them had usual health and common understanding. These children intermarried, and the offspring from these first-cousins were very different from their parents or grandparents. Several of the children died young. Of those who survived, some were idiotic, some talked most wildly, and dressed most strangely, and several were irresistibly bent on thieving. There did not seem to be a perfectly normal development among them."

I apprehend that such disastrous consequences as the above could result only where the temperaments of the parents and grandparents were alike. It seems difficult to conceive of such results as merely accidental, and not the effects of fixed laws.

"Mr. and Mrs. E., of M., Mass., had two boys. Everybody called them *dreadful odd*. Their minds seemed topsy-turvy, and they dressed differently from other folks."

Rev. Mr. Winsor, of Boston, asked a friend: "Do you know Mr. C., who attends my church; he looks queerly, but he thinks more queerly still?" His parents were cousins.

Dr. Pinkney, of Key West, says: "I have seen many inhabitants of the Bahama Islands, the product of the many intermarriages there of blood-relations, and they were generally homely and short-witted." The Doctor further says: "I knew a family in P., New York, twelve miles from G., where the parents were first-cousins; they had ten children, all of whom were idiotic."

The "skipper," who took me out on a fishing excursion, had a son fourteen years old, who looked and acted as the children of first-cousins are apt to. I asked the skipper if he was married. He said: "Yes; this is my son. I have had many children, but have been very unfortunate with them all." I said no more; but on returning to my lodgings I asked the physician about my skipper's family. He said: "He married his first-cousin, and their grandparents were first-cousins. Most of their children died in infancy, and two of them were born with closed eyes."

There is a man in Massachusetts who married his brother's daughter! They had seven children, all idiots. The greatest age attained by any one of them was eleven years. So devoid of self-care were they, that no one of them could feed itself. They would lie and roll on the floor, and appeared to be only masses of moving flesh. Are not such facts some proof of the violation of natural laws?

I know the family of E. E., of H., Mass.

The parents are first-cousins. They have seven children; three of their daughters and one of their sons are idiotic.

Dr. Spurzheim, in the last lecture he delivered in Boston, made this remark: "Among the royal families of Europe who have married in and in, there is now scarcely one of their descendants who can write a page of consecutive sound sense on any scientific, literary, or moral topic."

Dr. Samuel G. Howe, Director of the Boston Institution for the Blind, has devoted his acute and benevolent mind to the investigation of the causes of blindness, idiocy, &c. He communicated a statement to the Senate of Massachusetts in 1848, Doc. No. 51. The following brief abstract is by my friend, Dr. Ed. Jarvis, of Dorchester, Mass., the author of the best American elementary treatise on physiology.

"The parentage of 359 idiots was ascertained. Seventeen were children of parents known to be near blood-relations. Three were from parents who were called cousins. One-twentieth of all the idiots examined were offspring of blood-relations. The intermarriages of cousins do not constitute one-twentieth of all the marriages, probably not one-five-hundredth; therefore the marriage of blood-relations produces more than its share of idiots. All sorts of human deficiencies follow such marriages in similar ratio; namely, deafness, blindness, insanity, rheumatism, excitability, &c. Of the seventeen families where the parents were near blood-relations, most of the parents were intemperate or scrofulous. In some cases, both conditions prevailed. There were born among them 95 children, 44 of whom were idiots; 12 others were scrofulous and puny; one was deaf, and one was a dwarf. In a few instances all the children were either idiotic, or scrofulous, or puny. In one family of eight children, five were idiotic. Of the seventeen families the account stands thus:—

6	have	1	idiotic	child	each,	$1 \times 6 = 6$
2	"	2	"	"	"	$2 \times 2 = 4$
3	"	3	"	"	"	$3 \times 3 = 9$
5	"	4	"	"	"	$5 \times 4 = 20$
1	"	5	"	"	"	$1 \times 5 = 5$
						44

Nearly one half ($\frac{44}{95}$) of their children are imbecile. Add those otherwise imperfect, the 12 scrofulous and puny, the one deaf, and the one a dwarf, then we have 58 in all; thus showing more than one-half ($\frac{58}{95}$) in an abnormal condition. The parents who had the four

idiots had also four other children who were deformed."

An aged physician sends me the following statement: "A family in the town of B., Maine, named S****, is as follows: the parents have good constitutions, and the usual intelligence; they are first-cousins, and have five children. The first child is healthy in body, and regular in mind; but the other four are miserable idiots. They are disgusting objects to look at, their tongues very large, lolling out of their mouths, and saliva constantly flowing; eyes staring in the most stupid manner; and when they are alone will pick up worms and eat them."

Charles A., of Little Compton, R. I., shot his cousin, Valentine A., August, 1855, when his cousin was leaving Charles's house, after a friendly visit. Charles's father married his own sister's daughter, and the murderer was the product of this marriage.

In Rhode Island two brothers married nearly at the same time. One married a lady who had no blood-relation to her husband; the other married his first-cousin. All the parties had good health, and a common share of intellect. Each couple had three children. The children of the couple who were not related were healthy and intelligent; the children of the first-cousins were all idiots. At the birth of the third idiot, its mother died. Two years afterwards the widower married a lady who was not related to him. They have two boys, each is athletic in body, and very bright in mind.

It is not necessary to my purpose to extend these heart-sickening details of human calamity, mortification, and disappointment. With all of them fresh before us, are we authorized to draw conclusions? I think not. It is the part of sound philosophy to suspend decisions until both sides can be fully examined. There are children born of first-cousins who possess full vigor of body, and commanding strength of mind. All such cases are to be carefully registered, and profoundly studied. There are also children born of parents who are not related, who are weak in body or imbecile in mind. These have their place as elements in the present investigation.

With the facts now stated, and others which have come to my knowledge, I would ask the following questions:—

First. Are not the laws (used or misused) which improve or deteriorate the breeds in lower animals, the very same laws of nature which improve or deteriorate the human race?

Second. Are there not found, in the same

family, an unusual number of imbecile children, who are born of parents that are first-cousins?

Third. Do any children, born of first-cousins, exceed their parents in bodily strength and beauty, or in mental activity and power?

In closing, let me hope that the Association will not allow the subject to rest till the true conclusions are reached. If members will make note of facts within their knowledge, and forward them to me, I shall feel greatly obliged.

This subject includes an examination of the great fact of *caste* throughout the world. It includes an examination of the South Sea Islanders; of poor Africa, which has suffered through ages from the terrible class-castes, which keep them separated into hostile fragments, thus compelling intermarriages with the same tribe. It includes our American Indians, and may explain in part their diminution in numbers and bravery. It includes the Jews and the Gypsies.

I can assure the student that all these branches will be found full of deepest interest. When the great laws of amalgamation are properly understood, it will not be difficult to show the world how Mr. Knight, of England, has introduced the "Durham short-horned" variety of cattle; or his race-horse, that will leap eighteen feet; or his draught-horse, that walks off with two tons on a level road. It will not be difficult to explain the thick lip introduced into the imperial house of Austria, by the marriage of the Emperor Maximilian with Mary of Burgundy, although it is three hundred years since the event. It will not be difficult to explain the unusual strength and stature of the females of Potsdam, where the King of Prussia had quartered, for half a century, a guard of gigantic soldiers. It will not be difficult to explain the surpassing beauty of the Circassians and Georgians; or the short stature and small limbs of those parts of Ireland where the true Celtic blood is unmixed; or the stronger and larger limbs of other parts of that country where they have intermarried with English settlers and the Lowlanders of Scotland. It will not be difficult to explain the superior physical and mental qualities of the mixed races in Paraguay, in contrast with their neighbors; or of the offspring of the Dutch in their union with Hottentots. Baron Humboldt says: "It is a well-known fact that the Samboes of South America (the progeny of blacks and Indians) are remarkable for their physical superiority over their progenitors of either side."

Let the student be assured that all the branches of this wide subject will open before him fields for sublime contemplation and increasing wonder; and when he has exhausted them in other countries, he may then turn to the most interesting and extended exhibition of them all, namely, the United States; and he may try to calculate what will be the solution of the great problem here. Will not our country furnish the most wonderful example of the effects of intermarriages with different castes of the Caucasian race? When the people of these United States become a mixture of English, Scotch, Irish, Germans, and French, will they exhibit a strength of body and an intelligence of mind, a true inborn energy and moral power, which do not equally signalize either of the nations from whom they sprang? Under the fostering care of a truly republican and Christian government, will they advance in science, arts, agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and all the blessings of a religious civilization and political equality, as no one of their parent nations has? Let us hope that it is the appointed destiny of our free and prosperous land, to exhibit a higher development of human attributes than has yet blessed or astonished mankind.

Deaths from Violence.—A question has been asked physiologically, is one form of death easier than another? Here follow a few curious facts, gathered by observing authors, which may have some value to those conducting inquiries into that region of conjecture.

To be shot dead is one of the easiest modes of terminating life; yet, rapid as it is, the body has time to feel and reflect. On the first attempt, by one of the frantic adherents of Spain, to assassinate William, Prince of Orange, who took the lead in the revolt of the Netherlands, the ball passed through the bones of the face and brought him to the ground. In the instant that preceded stupefaction, he was able to frame the notion that the ceiling of the room had fallen and crushed him. The cannon shot which plunged into the brain of Charles XII did not prevent him from seizing his sword by the hilt. The idea of an attack, and the necessity for defence, was pressed on him by a blow which we should have supposed too tremendous to leave an interval for thought. But it by no means follows that the inflicting of fatal wounds is accompanied by a pang. From what is known of the first effect of gun-shot wounds, it is probable that the impression is

rather stunning than acute. Unless death be immediate, the pain is as varied as the nature of the injuries, and these are past counting up.

But there is nothing singular in the dying sensation, though Lord Byron remarked the physiological peculiarity that the expression is invariably that of languor, while in death from a stab, the countenance reflects the traits of natural character, of gentleness or ferocity, to the last breath.

Some of these are cases of interest, to show with what slight disturbance life may go under a mortal wound, till it finally comes to a sudden stop.

A foot-soldier at Waterloo, pierced by a musket ball in the hip, begged water of a trooper who chanced to possess a canteen of beer. The wounded man drank, returned his heartiest thanks, mentioned that his regiment was nearly exterminated, and having proceeded a dozen yards on his way to the rear, fell to the earth, and with one convulsive movement of his limbs, concluded his career. "Yet his voice," says the trooper, who himself tells the story, "gave scarcely the smallest sign of weakness."

Captain Basil Hall, who, in his early youth, was present at the battle of Corunna, has singled out from the conclusion which consigns to oblivion the woes and gallantry of war, another instance, extremely similar, which occurred on that occasion.

An old officer who was shot in the head, arrived pale and faint at the temporary hospital, and begged the surgeon to look at his wound, which was pronounced mortal.

"Indeed, I fear so," he responded, with impeded utterance, "and yet I should like very much to live longer, if it were possible."

He laid his sword upon a stone at his side, as gently, says Hall, as if steel had been turned to glass, and almost immediately sank dead upon the turf.

Propagation of Sound.—In the arctic regions, when the thermometer is below zero, persons can converse more than a mile distant. Dr. Jamison asserts that he heard every word of a sermon at the distance of two miles.

New India Botanic Garden.—Dr. Cleghorn, Professor of Botany in the Madras Medical College, will assist Sir Mark Cubbon in regard to a choice of a locality for a new botanical garden in the dominions of the Rajah of Mysore.

EMPIRICISM ENCOURAGED BY THE CLERGY.

There are two ways in which clergymen are chiefly instrumental in the propagation and spread of empiricism; and there is yet another way in which they ought to contribute to its overthrow, and to the establishment of something better in its place.

The first way in which they aid and abet quackery is by furnishing certificates of the efficacy of nostrums, to the inventors, or proprietors. Their certificates are furnished in good faith, and bear evidence only of the truth, with a sincere desire to benefit others by recommending the remedy to general use. They may indeed have been cured of some uncomfortable or dangerous disease; but, ignorant as the rest of the world of the nature of disease and the principles of physiology, they do not know that what *cures them* may *kill another* with a similar complaint. The certificate of a minister is considered, by a quack, as invaluable; and when two or three are procured from distinguished characters, they insure a great sale of the nostrum, and of course, a lucrative speculation to its inventor. When the clergy take the pills or potions of a quack, the laity have little hesitation in following their example; and whoever contributes to the extension of ignorance and error, or to their perpetuation, by obstructing the progress of science in fostering quackery by recommending secret remedies, does injustice to society, and to society he should be held responsible. If the remedy is one of power, it may do hurt; if simple, and lacking in potency, confidence may be reposed in it, when active treatment is necessary, till some fatal disease has made too great progress to be arrested. He who trusts to a secret remedy is like one who places his fortune and his life in the hands of a stranger—not knowing whether or not he may be murdered and robbed at the first favorable moment. A hearty, robust boy, six years old, was seized with an affection of the lungs attended with a violent cough. A minister who frequently visited the family urged the parents to give him a certain syrup that he had known used in many cases “*exactly like this*” of course, and he believed the syrup to be a *certain cure*—like all other nostrums. The syrup was administered; the boy grew worse; the quantity was increased—and so was the disease; another bottle was used up—

and so was the boy. A post mortem examination proved the disease to have been an acute inflammation of the lungs, which might in all probability have been cured by prompt and efficient treatment.

The second manner in which the clergy aid in the production of quackery is by interfering with people in their choice of a family physician. This is a less direct, but quite as effectual method, as the other; and it not only contributes to the production of empiricism *out* of the profession, but also *in* it. But the mischief stops not here; feelings of ill-will, jealousy, and misunderstandings, which lead to open quarrels between different members of the profession, and between patients and their friends, not unfrequently result from the unwise intermeddling of gentlemen whose profession teaches them better. Let us take instance to illustrate the position. A member of a family in which a clergyman takes a deep interest, is sick; they have their physician, in whom they have the most implicit confidence, who has been for years their firm friend and most faithful servant, and to whom, perhaps, some one or more are indebted for their lives. The clergyman has his favorite doctor also, in whom he has confidence; he believes him to be superior in learning and skill to all others; and besides, he believes him to be particularly skilful in the very disease with which the patient is afflicted. By the importunity of the minister, the physician in attendance is dismissed, and another is called in; and perhaps the patient dies in consequence of the change of treatment; for something different must be attempted for the sake of appearance, however judicious may have been the previous course; and then it may be said that the second physician was called too late. The minister's doctor may be an ignoramus compared with the other; and if, as is not unfrequently the case, he takes charge of the patient at a favorable moment, he receives the credit of a cure which rightly belongs to another, and who has been dismissed in disgrace, and who is repaid for his kindness with black ingratitude. Here commence the quarrels and misunderstandings of all parties concerned, which the exercise of a small share of discretion would have prevented. The cause of all this wrong-doing lies in the ignorance, not the motive, of the minister. And here the author begs leave to repeat that he does not believe all ministers, or even a majority, are guilty of error in this respect; but there are some who are, and they will know when these remarks are applicable to them—

selves. When the author speaks of ignorance of the clergy, he means ignorance as regards matters pertaining to the medical profession; and however unpalatable it may be to gentlemen who are learned in theology, and who believe themselves to be beyond the reach of imposition, it is nevertheless a fact that the most perfect dupes of quackery, those who are loudest and longest in their praises of hobbies and humbugs, are members of the clerical profession. The reasons for their being thus duped are to be found in their ignorance of the principles of medicine, the data upon which to form opinions—and their belief in the honesty of the designing and unprincipled charlatan. In all the interference of ministers with the practice of physicians, they may be actuated by the best of motives; but inasmuch as they are unacquainted with the physician whose dismissal they procure, they are unjust towards him. The question then arises, is it proper for a clergyman in any case to give his advice, or to recommend a change of physician? Certainly it is. But before he insists that one shall be dismissed and another called, let him make himself acquainted with the merits of the first, and see if they do not at least equal those of the one whom he proposes as a substitute. He may at all times recommend a consultation; and to this no one concerned would object; and then if the attending physician is in error, he will be most likely to be corrected. Or, if a medical attendant is found to be unworthy of confidence, after a due investigation let him at once be notified that his services are no longer required.

From the position that the clergy occupy in society, and the necessary influence of that position, we have a right to expect, that they will exert all their influence for good. One means of doing good would be to make themselves acquainted with the human system, to a greater or less extent, and the laws which govern it, as well as the *principles* of physiology and therapeutics. They would, thus, be enabled to aid greatly in the eradication of prejudices from the minds of the populace, and the overthrow of quackery and imposture. A little attention to the temporal habitation of that spiritual existence, whose welfare it is their profession to seek, would prevent dissensions in the profession which are now the direct result of ill-timed, and injudicious, but well-meant advice to their friends.—*Tick. Med. Phil.*

Chemical Apparatus.—J. F. Luhme, at 342 Pantheon Building, New York, is supposed to have the most complete chemical warehouse in

this country. Whatever is used or approved by the first chemists in the world, may be had at that establishment. Orders by expressmen are sufficient to obtain the article required.

Prolific.—Patrick Garrety, living at 48 East Dedham street, was presented by his wife on Saturday night with three fine girls, the aggregate weight of which was 21 pounds.—*Post.*

This "fortunate individual" works for the city, his wages being one dollar per day.

Heat without Fire.—A scientific proposition for cooking without fire, is in this wise. The food is placed in tin dishes of certain described forms, one above the other. Quick lime is placed in lowest,—on which cold water drips from a tube. Intense heat is soon generated, and the various articles are fried, boiled, stewed or toasted, according to the taste of the operator.

Near-Sightedness.—The Paris Medical Gazette states that of the 3,295,202 young men examined in France, for military service, during 19 years, 13,007 were exempted for myopia. Some years since a regiment of recruits, principally natives of London, where they were enlisted, were taken out of the city to practise at a target. To the surprise of the officers in charge, a large part of them were totally unable to see the mark, although within the ordinary shooting distance. This fact led to the discovery that persons whose range of vision is limited by brick walls, are near-sighted in far greater numbers than in the same number of inhabitants residing in the country. The eyes of sailors in continued sea service become almost telescopic. They discover objects at a vast distance which are not even discernible by other eyes.

Progress of Empiricism.—No department of human industry presents a more active field of enterprise. Whatever is put on sale as a medicine, is sure to have purchasers, and both the demand and profit bear a certain relation to the activity and cunning of the proprietors. A new phase in the trade, redounding largely to the pocket income of interested parties, is to have terribly sick persons wisely dispersed over the country, who are rapidly recovering from terrible diseases, by using the newly advertised antidote. People dressed like respectable clergymen, in white cravats, are found to get off more stuff and gather more money than ordinary agents.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF INSANE INSTITUTIONS.

Among the various scientific organizations for concentrating and diffusing scientific knowledge among men, the Association of the Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane embraces a list of names that certainly command confidence. It is essential to know who to address, when pursuing investigations, especially under circumstances that require scientific information from individuals, and a catalogue of the names of the gentlemen at the head of those humane establishments in all the States is here given. They were all present at the eleventh annual meeting, held at Cincinnati, on the 19th of May last. On the third Tuesday in May, 1857, the Association will again assemble in the City of New York.

Drs. I. Ray, Butler Hospital, Providence, R. I. ; John Curwen, Pennsylvania State Lunatic Asylum, Harrisburg ; C. H. Nichols, Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D. C. ; John E. Tyler, New Hampshire State Lunatic Asylum, Concord ; Geo. C. S. Choate, Massachusetts State Hospital, Taunton ; D. Tilden Brown, Bloomingdale Asylum, Manhattanville, N. Y. ; John P. Gray, State Lunatic Asylum, Utica, N. Y. ; M. H. Ranny, New York City Lunatic Asylum ; R. B. Baisley, King's County Lunatic Asylum, Flatbush, L. I. ; J. H. Worthington, Friends Asylum for the Insane, Frankford, Pa. ; Joseph A. Reed, Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Alleghany City, Pa. ; John Fonerden, Maryland Hospital, Baltimore, Md. ; W. A. Cheatham, Tennessee Hospital for the Insane, Nashville, Tenn. ; T. R. H. Smith, Missouri State Lunatic Asylum, Fulton, Mo. ; W. S. Chipley, Eastern Lunatic Asylum, Lexington, Ky. ; Andrew McFarland, Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, Jacksonville, Ill. ; James S. Athon, Indiana State Hospital for the Insane, Indianapolis, Ind. ; E. H. Van Deusen, Michigan Asylum for the Insane, Kalamazoo, Mich. ; Joseph Workman, Provincial Hospital for the Insane, Toronto, C. W. ; Geo. E. Eels, Central Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Columbus, Ohio ; Joshua Clements, Southern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Dayton ; J. J. Quinn, Cincinnati Lunatic Asylum, Cincinnati ; R. Hills, Supt. Elect, Central Ohio Lunatic Asylum ; R. C. Hopkins, Supt. Elect, Northern Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Newburg ; John J. McIlhenny, Supt. Elect, Southern Ohio Lunatic Asylum ; O. M. Langden, Supt. Elect, Cincinnati Lu-

natic Asylum ; Edward Mead, Cincinnati Retreat for the Insane ; and S. Hanbury Smith, late of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, Columbus.

EMETICS AND CATHARTICS.

When the question was put to an ancient orator as to what was most necessary to constitute a good speaker, he replied *action* ; when he was asked what was next most important, again he replied *action* ; and when the question was reiterated the third time, the third time he replied *action*. Were a modern Sangrado asked what was most necessary in the treatment of disease, doubtless he would reply, *bleeding* ; should the question be repeated, undoubtedly he would repeat the same answer ; and should it be reiterated the third, or the thirtieth time, the same answer would be as often returned, unless, perchance, it should be varied to "*leeches*," "*gum-water*," "*absolute diet*," or "*lavements*." Were the question, on the other hand, what he considered the most hurtful measure in the treatment of disease, put to his antipode in practice, his answer would as certainly be *bleeding* ; and were the question repeated any number of times, the same answer would be invariably made. The error in this case lies equally with friend and foe ; the extravagant praises of the one, and the unconditional condemnation of the other, are in the same degree unmerited, and unphilosophical, and unbecoming a member of the medical profession.

There are also, even in the reign of "*gastro-enterite*," ardent friends and admirers of emetics ; and the instances of patients who pass through their hands without a taste of tarter emetic, are as rare as those who come from the discipline of a thorough Broussaian, without his fill of *gum-water*, or without carrying the marks of the scarificator on his epigastrium. Emetics are administered for a pain, and irritation of the stomach, and they are repeated to remedy the pain and distress which they create. Like a mass of fuel thrown upon a fire, which for a time is checked, and then bursts out with tenfold rage, emetics may temporarily smother a disease which will re-appear with increased violence. This is particularly the case with gastritis in all its grades, and if the disease prove fatal, as it not unfrequently does, under a repetition of this treatment, the doctor does not rec-

ognize the instrumentality of his own hand in the production of the final result. He believes, in the innocence of pure intention, and in the simplicity of his understanding, that if his favorite remedy had been employed to a greater extent, his patient had been saved, and his own skill and the reputation of his medicine had not been questioned. Another, on the contrary, would hardly administer an emetic, under any circumstances; for he too believes, in all honesty and sincerity, that they must inevitably and without exception, cause gastritis when it does not exist, and aggravate it when present, and always leave the patient worse than it found him. Not long since a practitioner, who had the most inveterate fear of emetics before his eyes, was applied to by a patient who complained of pain, tenderness, weight, and other symptoms, which, to him, clearly indicated *gastritis*; the usual treatment was, of course, pursued for several weeks—leeches, poultices, cupping, starvation, etc., with no good effect. The patient repeatedly urged to be allowed to take an emetic, but his physician as often placed before him the great danger of so rash and hazardous a measure. At length the doctor was surprised, after the lapse of two days, to find his patient so greatly improved; his disease seemed entirely gone, and he was in fact well. This afforded the doctor a fine opportunity to extol his exclusive theory, and the happy result of his practice, in an oration of half an hour's length; but he was effectually silenced when his patient told him that he had clandestinely taken a large dose of tartar emetic and ipecac, and from the moment of its operation he felt himself relieved.

Neither have cathartics escaped a due share of exaggerated praise and condemnation—the love of friends, and ill-will of enemies, proving about equally injurious, as well in relation to medicine, as in regard to most other matters. We have too frequently,—and what candid man has not?—seen cathartics prescribed when they were decidedly indicated, and repeated till all the good they could do had been done, and then continued till the disease they had been intended to relieve had been aggravated, or one of a worse character induced.

Purging is many times continued till a sub-acute enteritis is induced, or aggravated, and the abdomen becomes painful and distended; and then it is still further continued, under an erroneous impression that a new disease has occurred, to remove the very symptoms it has caused. Thus the patient is finally purged

out of existence, without the doctor once suspecting a possibility that he may be wrong, or that something else, or some other treatment, would be advisable. The error of super-purgation is quite likely to occur in affections of the skin; cathartics operate as revulsives, and aided by the close sympathy between the skin and the mucous membrane of the alimentary canal—caused by similarity of tissue and function—they unexpectedly transfer the disease from the surface to the interior of the body—an event which is always to be dreaded, and if possible avoided. We have thus seen erysipelas, by a repetition of cathartics, transferred from the skin to the bowels, prove fatal in twenty-four hours.—*Tick Med. Phil.*

LOVES OF THE LIONS.

Although this article may not be new to all our readers, it is of sufficient interest to be placed permanently where cultivators of Natural History can refer to it.

Let us first sketch the history of the lion's life, beginning with his marriage, which takes place toward the end of January. He has first to seek a wife; but as the males are far more abundant than the females, who are often cut off in infancy, it is not rare to find a young lady pestered by three or four gallants, who quarrel with the acerbity of jealous lovers. If one of them does not succeed in disabling or driving away the others, madam, impatient and dissatisfied, leads them into the presence of an old lion, whose roar she has appreciated at a distance. The lovers fly at him with the temerity of youth and exasperation. The old fellow receives them with calm assurance, breaks the neck of the first with his terrible jaws, smashes the legs of the second, tears out the eyes of the third. No sooner is the day won, and the field clear, than the lion tosses his mane in the air and roars, and then crouches by the side of the lady, who, as a reward for his courage, licks his wounds caressingly. When two adult lions are the rivals, the encounter is more serious.

An Arab, perched on a tree one night, saw a lioness followed by a tawny lion with a full-grown mane; she lay down at the foot of the tree, the lion stopped on his path, and seemed to listen. The Arab then heard the distant growling of a lion, which was instantly replied to by the lioness under the tree. This made her husband roar furiously. The distant lion was heard approaching, and as he came nearer the lioness roared louder, which seemed to

agitate her husband, for he marched towards her as if to force her to be silent, and then sprang back to his old post, roaring defiance at his distant rival. This continued for about an hour, when a black lion made his appearance on the plain. The lioness arose as if to go toward him; but her husband, guessing her intention, bounded toward his rival. The two crouched and sprang on each other, rolling on the grass in the embrace of death. Their bones cracked, their flesh was torn, their cries of rage and excruciating agony rent the air, and all this time the lioness crouched and wagged her tail slowly in sign of satisfaction. When the combat ended, and both warriors were stretched on the plain, she arose, smelt them, satisfied herself that they were dead, and trotted off, quite regardless of the complimentary epithet which the indignant Arab shouted after her. This, Gerard tells us, is an example of the conjugal affection of my lady, whereas the lion never quits his wife, unless forced, and is quite a pattern of conjugal attentions.

Our lion then is married, let us say. He is the slave of his wife. It is she who always takes precedence; when she stops he stops. On arriving at a *dour* (the collection of tents, what is called a "village") for their supper, she lies down while he leaps into the enclosure and brings to her the booty. He watches her while she eats, taking care that no one shall disturb her; and not until her appetite is satisfied does he begin his meal. When she feels that she is about to become a mother, that is, toward the middle of December, they seek an isolated ravine, and there, without the aid of chloroform or Dr. Locock, she presents her lord with one, two, and sometimes three puppies, generally one male and one female. If the reader has ever seen and handled a puppy lion, he will understand the mother and father. She never quits them for an instant, and he only quits them to bring home supper. When they are three months old their weaning commences. The mother accustoms them gradually to it, by absenting herself for longer and longer periods, and bringing them pieces of mutton carefully skinned. The father, whose habitual demeanor is grave, becomes fatigued by the frivolous sports of his children, and for the sake of tranquillity removes his lodgings to a distance, within reach, however, to render assistance, if required.

At the age of four or five months their children follow their mother to the border of the forest, where the father brings them their sup-

per. At six months old they accompany their father and mother in all nocturnal expeditions. From eight to twelve months they learn to attack sheep, goats, and even bulls; but they are so awkward that they usually wound ten for one they kill. It is not till they are two years old that they can kill a horse or a bull with one bite. While their education is thus in progress, they are ten times more ruinous to the Arabs, since the family does not content itself with killing the cattle required for its own consumption, but kills that the children may learn how to kill. At three years old the children quit home and set up for themselves, becoming fathers and mothers in their turn. Their places are occupied by another brood. At eight years old the lion reaches maturity, and lives to thirty or forty. When adult he is a magnificent creature, very different in size, aspect, and disposition from the lions to be seen in menageries and zoological gardens, animals taken from the mother's breast, bred like rabbits, deprived of the fresh mountain air and ample nourishment. As an indication of the size attained by lions in a state of nature, we may cite the fact mentioned by Gerard, that the strongest man in the cavalry regiment to which he belonged, was unable to carry the skin and head of the lion which Gerard had killed.

Poison of the African Toad.—The Rev. Francis Flaming's recent work on Southern Africa, has the following in relation to reptiles of that region. There is a monster toad there which has more terrifying celebrity than the puff-adder. It is about a foot long and eight inches broad, with a spotted green back, yellow belly, and large red eyes, which the Kaffirs say spirt fire. All animals, as well as man, abhor this loathsome and most skocking looking creature. To show its poisonous qualities, this fact is chronicled.

A pedlar sold a cask of native wine to three Dutch boers who lived together on a farm in the district of Clanwilliam, in old Cape Colony. Two of them died soon after drinking a cup full. The third brother, returned from a hunting excursion, and on discovering the melancholy facts of their death, accused the pedlar of murdering them with poisoned wine. He declared his innocence, and to show that the wine had no agency in the death of his brothers, drank of it himself, and in a few minutes was a corpse! On opening the cask to discover the nature of the poison, one of those awful African toads was found at the bottom.

HINDU FEMALES.

1st. SUSHRUTA says: "The menstrual discharge begins after the twelfth, and ceases after the fiftieth year. The discharge returns every month and lasts for three days."

Again SUSHRUTA says: "If a man under twenty-five deposit his germ (*garbha*) in a woman younger than sixteen, it will (most likely) die in utero. Even if it be born alive it will either soon die, or he will be imbecile and weakly so long as he lives."

2d. ANGIRA, one of the Hindu lawgivers, says: "That females are called *Gouree* when they are eight years old; they are called *Rohinee* at the ninth year; *Kangaka* at the tenth year; and after the tenth they are called *Raj-aswala*, or a female with menses."

3d. ATRI and KASYAPA (Hindu sages) state, that if an unmarried girl discharges the menstrual fluid at her father's house, the father incurs a guilt similar to that of destroying a foetus, and the daughter becomes *Brisalee*, or degraded in rank.

The Hindu Shastras enjoin that females should be given in marriage before their first menstrual discharge, and that should marriage not take place until after this event, the marriage is regarded in a sinful light.

Dr. Webb says: According to my own observation the females of this country generally arrive at the age of puberty (or womanhood) after the twelfth year, when they are fit for all the purposes of marriage. I think our celebrated MANU very judiciously fixed the time of marriage of females at twelve with men of thirty years old. Most of the females of this country begin to menstruate after the twelfth year or at the beginning of the thirteenth, and it continues till the fortieth, in some cases forty-fifth. At the age of ten years it is very uncommon, and it is perhaps equally rare for it to be delayed beyond the thirteenth year. When the discharge takes place it lasts for three or four days.

As a general rule of my investigation, I do not find that menstruation occurs at so early an age as ten years in more than one or two instances out of a hundred females. I beg to observe that it is a very easy matter for native practitioners to ascertain the actual epoch of a first menstruation, since it is the custom, among Hindus, to publicly notify to all the relations and guardians of the female, the important fact of menstruation, and celebrate it

by certain ceremonies and religious rites called Punur Bibaha, or second marriage.

It is the custom of the country, in our early marriages, to send the girl at perhaps nine years, occasionally to the house of her husband, but if the husband be so distant that this cannot be done, menstruation is generally delayed till the thirteenth year.

I have been informed by several women, that when the menstrual flux begins as early as the eleventh or twelfth year, it does not in many cases recur for a year after this first appearance, but after that period, the secretion again takes its natural course.

They also mention that females occasionally become pregnant immediately after this first menstruation. I believe that the catamenia appear sooner or later according to the mode of living of the females, and the sexual excitement to which they may be subjected, as I find the first menstruation of girls of good circumstances generally takes place when they are eleven years old, even in some cases at ten years. I never observed a female of indigent circumstances to menstruate earlier than the age of twelve years.

INSTANCES OF MENSTRUATION LATE IN LIFE.

1 Gopl Mohun Dey's aged wife	60	8 Nimychurn Bose's wife	56
2 Madhub Ram Bose's wife	50	9 Ram Narain Sircar's wife	57
3 Gour Mohun Das's wife	65	10 Deby Kisto Dutt's wife	59
4 Kissub Ram Bose's servant	67	11 Boli Ram Bose's wife	56
5 Ramcoomar Mittra's wife	68	12 Soroop Ghose's mother	80
6 Kassynath Ghose's wife	64	13 Shooobhul Taly's mother	63
7 Bindu Bun Ghose's mother	58		

Healing Art of the Indians.—It is a shameful imposition upon thoughtless, un-read people, by those who pretend to practise medicine as the aborigines did, when the entire histories of the Indian tribes, from the first intercourse of the Europeans to the present day, concur in saying that they had no reliable knowledge of diseases or rational methods of treating them, when developed. How very ridiculous, then, for educated, civilized, cultivated, humanized, Christian men, to listen to such a proposition as this: "Go to the savage and learn how to be healed."

It is, however, a notorious fact that Indian medicine men, as they are called, are the greatest imposters living. They surpass their civilized imitators. They out-Herod Herod in knavery. The whole system of practice among the Indians has always consisted in fraud and pretence.

Catlin, who spent years among the North American Indians, constantly affirms this.

They know nothing of the power of simples. They employ, over the sick, charms, spells, and incantations, and make use of amulets and consecrated medicine bags as curative agents.

Shall scientific men go to these ignorant, besotted dupes of superstition to learn medical science? Sometimes a veritable Indian doctor appears among us with more *brass* than *copper* in his face. He makes prescriptions with great gravity and solemnity. He cuts herbs and gathers roots under the influence of certain astronomical signs.

These signs, by the way, are but a relic of astrology, as ancient as the Pharaohs, and have no more significance for us than the worship of Isis. But our doctor regards the stellar influence in gathering his herbs. He strips the bark *upward* for an emetic, and *downward* for a cathartic. He steeps the whole in river water taken up in a peculiar way.

In one instance the whole process failed because the patient dipped the water up stream instead of down!

"Because, you see," said the learned doctor, "if the water be dipped up stream, it goes *agin natur*; if down stream, it *helps natur*."

Artificial Formation of Minerals.—Prof. Houseman, of Gottingen, Ger., has published an interesting scientific paper on the formation of minerals in and about furnaces, by furnace action. He enumerates the following varieties observed by him: silver, lead, copper, iron, bismuth, glance, blend, oxyd of zinc, red copper ore, iron glance, and magnetic iron ore.

War and Science.—Napoleon set the example of having his armies accompanied by a body of scientific and literary explorers. How much they gained for the glory of France in the expedition to Egypt! Louis Napoleon copied his uncle's policy in having the same class of men with his forces in the Crimea. We shall have the results of their discoveries and researches very soon.

Ajuh.—During the recent session of the British Association, an account was given of a *river whale*, found by Dr. Vogel in the Benué, in Central Africa. Its eyes are only three and a half inches from the nostrils, and turned up. When fully grown, it is supposed to be ten feet long. More marvellous still, its food is grass! It belongs, therefore, to the order of herbivorous cetacea.

An Approach to Concours.—In England, as in the United States, professors are elected, not always because the successful candidate has special qualifications for the place, but because he has interested family friends, who go through fire and water to serve their kin. At the University of London, the coming winter, an immense departure appears to have been made from the old selfish policy, by inviting talented men to lecture before the classes. The result will be as follows: Dull incumbents *will be finally superseded*, as the students will become clamorous for intellectual food, on discovering that the regular professors have heretofore fed them, often as otherwise, on the diluted milk of science. It would make an upheaval of the conservative dust on empty benches in some of the second class medical schools in the Northern States, if some gentlemen who are studiously kept down and under, were asked to lecture occasionally.

Primitive Age.—Mrs. Purday, residing in Spencer, Tioga county, New York, is now 105 years old; is in good hearth, and apparently has as strong hold upon life as she had many years ago. Her husband was killed in the Revolution and she was left a widow at the age of twenty-two years; she never married again, and now, at this great age, her mind is clear, and she relates scenes and anecdotes of the Revolution with all the ardor of youth.

It was the opinion of some modern physiologists, that no one has died of old age since Methuselah—all deaths short of one or two centuries, in their estimation being premature. Russia affords the rarest examples of old age since the time of the antediluvians. Several whose names are cherished, have reached the patriarchal age of one hundred and fifty and sixty years. It is presumed there are now living in that country, many men and women over one hundred and thirty years old.

Practitioners in Austria.—According to recent statistical returns, the Austrian empire has 6,398 physicians, 6,200 surgeons, 19,000 mid-wives, and 3,000 apothecaries.

A Large Brain.—In the poet Southey's diary, in speaking of Sir James Macintosh, who had just died, 1832—is this remark: "His brain was the largest that has ever been examined. Yet a deal more has come out of other heads, though, probably, there are few in this generation in which so much has been stored."

FOUNDLING HOSPITALS IN CHINA.

"FOUNDLING-HOSPITALS in China! What? in China, whose ditches, canals, and rivers are reported by some to be strown ever and anon with the bodies of infants, that *of course* have been killed by their horrid mothers over-night! What? foundling hospitals in a country whose metropolitan streets are said to have carts heavily rolling along them daily, to wheel away the dead and dying boys and girls thrown out by their unnatural parents! Is it possible that, in the breasts of the Chinese, there can be one drop of the milk of human kindness, at least for children?" The fact is, much extravagance and carelessness are chargeable on those who retail and re-echo such stories of Chinese infanticide.

Foundling-hospitals exist in all the principal towns of the empire of China; but the following is an account of one in Shang-hae, founded in the year 1710, which I visited last in 1852.

It stands in the south-east part, and near the centre of the city, in a retired lane; where over an unpretending gate-way there is the inscription on stone, *Yuhyingtang* — "The Hall for Nourishing Infants." The first thing that attracts your attention is a drawer at the right side of the entrance. Curiosity led me to pull it out, and I found it nicely wadded with cotton. On shutting it, I heard a bell tinkle inside the building; and it was explained to me that this drawer was meant for the deposit of any babe brought there by day or night. That due notice may be given to the inmates, the drawer, as soon as it slides back, touches a spring that pulls a bell; and then the porter hastens to open it and introduce the live contents to the resident director.

Upon entering the building, I counted twenty-four-in-door foundlings, chiefly infant girls, and among them maimed, blind, and idiots. To one child in particular my attention was called—a deaf-mute eleven years of age. Of out door patients they had at that time 100 on their books. The nursery apartments were small, with cots humble, but sufficiently comfortable for the nurses. Some low empty barrels were pointed out, which, I am told, were used for lodging the little creatures, to relieve the nurses' arms when their charges became too heavy or began to creep about. These child-barrels are about the ordinary height of a crawling infant, and full of straw, into which the piccaninny is put, and kept erect and out

of harm's way. Of hired wet-nurses I saw several, some of them in charge of two or three babes; and all were young, and appeared more healthy, clean, and good-looking than woman generally of the lower orders. I was introduced to two resident officers, one a medico in his surgery, rather respectable in appearance and bearing. They informed me that, as the children grow up, they are adopted into families, or betrothed, or sent out to service. But no more accurate description can be given of the establishment, its objects and working, than in its annual Reports, of which I have two specimens, one (for the year 1849) presented me on my last visit.

RHEUMATISM.

There are few diseases, the existing cause of which is to be found in climatorial influence, which are more tedious and painful, and which are, frequently, attended with greater danger than that Protean malady called rheumatism. This disease is located by the best pathologists in that tissue denominated *fibrous*; such as the membrane covering the bones, the ligaments about the different joints, the pericardium, or heart-case, one of the membranes enclosing the brain, the sclerotic coat of the eye, the sheaths of the muscles, and perhaps the muscles themselves. All those different parts are liable, though not equally so, to attacks of this disease; and as some are more important to the well-being of the system than others, so, of course, the danger is greater, in proportion as the organ affected is more essential to vitality. While, for instance, the disease attacks, and continues in the joints alone, the pain may be as acute and the suffering as great, as when the disease is located in the head or heart, although the danger would be but, comparatively, trifling.

Rheumatism has been divided by writers into acute or inflammatory, and chronic. The first form of the disease is characterized by those general symptoms that indicate other inflammatory complaints; while at the same time, it possesses some traits of character peculiar to itself. The division into acute and chronic is in fact arbitrary and artificial; for they are both but different *degrees* of the same disease; and, yet, they are so distinctive in their features, that a different or modified treatment is necessary in the two forms of the complaint. Any one who has ex-

perienced rheumatism in his own person, or seen it in others, has felt or seen the skin covering the joints, in the acute form, red, hot, and the whole joint swollen, exquisitely tender and painful. In the chronic form of the disease, on the other hand, instead of the joint being red and hot, it is *pale* and inordinately cold; and instead of the fever that is met with in the acute form, in this it may be entirely absent.

Common sense alone would teach any person that two states of the system, so diametrically opposite in their whole appearance, could not be cured by the same plan of treatment—that a remedy which would cool one part, in one individual, would not be very likely to warm the same part in another person.

In accordance with the nature of the disease, its diversified traits of character, etc., the plan of treatment most successful is that based on general principles, and so modified as to be adapted to the individual features of each case. Sometimes the most violent attack is cut short, and the patient cured, by a repetition of copious bleeding. This practice, proper only in robust individuals, and those of strong constitutions, would, in others, prove highly dangerous, if not fatal. And therefore another course must be adopted, which, though not so efficacious, is, at least, free from danger.—Where bleeding is improper, medicines that excite perspiration may be next best; or cathartics may be indicated, or perhaps neither. The choice of a medicine, or the general course to be pursued in this, as in all other diseases, should depend upon the age, sex, temperament, hereditary predisposition, actual state of the patient, and many other circumstances that can be justly appreciated only by a comprehensive, philosophic mind.

There is one peculiarity in rheumatism, which, fortunately, does not belong to many of the diseases that afflict our race; and that is a tendency to change its location—to wander from one part of the body to another. It will sometimes attack one ankle, and after remaining there a day or two, seize upon the ankle of the other limb. Then it will return to the knee-joint of the limb first affected, and after a time show itself in the other knee. So it will go, alternately, till each joint in the body has in its turn been visited. But it does not only ramble from one joint to another, it goes from a less to a more important organ—from one of the smaller joints to the eye, the brain, or the heart. When rheumatism is thus transferred, it becomes one of the most formidable

and obstinate of all the maladies in the catalogue of human ills. When it attacks the membrane covering the brain, mental derangement is not an infrequent consequence; and whoever has once experienced it, knows well that the pain is most dreadful. This disease assumes the worst appearance when it affects the membrane lining the cavities of the heart. It then produces violent palpitation, difficult respiration, ossification of the heart's valves, enlargement of the heart, and finally either general dropsy or dropsy of the chest, which terminates the "sad eventful history."

When a disease possesses such a fondness for wandering—when its very nature is that of a vagrant, here to-day, and in another place to-morrow, now affecting one part, and in a single hour, perhaps, fixed in some other—the greatest danger is to be apprehended from any improper application. We are taught by the observation of facts, that rheumatism may be driven, as well as go voluntarily, from one organ to another; and that when it is thus driven it is by no means as easily recalled. Death has been known to result in a short time from the sudden translation of rheumatism from the limbs to the heart, in spite of the most active revulsive remedies that could be employed. It follows, therefore, that, to prescribe judiciously in this disease, an intimate knowledge of its nature, in all its phases, is not only requisite and necessary, but indispensable. Is it safe, then, that it should be treated by quacks?—Are the nostrums—the ointments, embrocations, the liniments, and the thousand and one specifics—all certain cures—proper or safe to be indiscriminately employed? It is very certain that an application which will cure chronic rheumatism will aggravate the disease when it assumes the acute form. Nostrums are recommended for *rheumatism*, without regard to its character in any particular case; and the chances are, if the remedy be one of power, that injury is quite as likely to follow its use as benefit. An invalid, with chronic rheumatism, is advised to use a stimulating application, with external heat, to his painful joints; he does so, and is greatly relieved. He calls to see an acquaintance confined to his bed with rheumatism, and hardly able to move a finger; and, without knowing that the disease is of a different character from that which affected him, he urges the sick man to try his remedy. It is tried, with a tenfold aggravation of all the suffering.

Rheumatism, by those who are not informed, is believed to be the same thing in all cases;

and if the application of Cayenne pepper, mustard, hot alcohol, or a heated smoothing iron cures one, it will cure another. And so, too, if the inventor of a nostrum can cure a few, he may think that he can cure all; at any rate, if he is disposed to be somewhat of a rogue, and practise upon the credulity, hopes, and fears of invalids, he may know that a great proportion of rheumatics will at least try his remedy. Thus he finds a market for his invention; and if he has not the good luck to acquire a fortune, he must content himself with less success, or set his genius to work in another direction.

Rheumatism may be, and indeed often is, mistaken for other and more serious affections of the joints; and where this is the case, the use of an improper remedy, or the neglect to use efficient means, may terminate in the death or permanent lameness of the patient. As an instance of mischief resulting from ignorance and consequent neglect, we may adduce the case of a young lad of this city, who, for several months, complained of pain in one of his lower limbs, and other symptoms indicative of rheumatism. His complaint was, of course, considered by his parents as rheumatic, and by them treated as such, till it had increased to such a degree that they very wisely called for medical advice. But it was now too late. This disease was a scrofulous affection of the hip-joint; and it had made such progress, during the period that it had been mistaken for something else, and when, perhaps, it might have been arrested, that it was beyond the reach of medical science. The boy fell a victim to disease, because his parents *thought* he had rheumatism, and being *only* rheumatism, they *thought* he would get well.

The very fact that rheumatism too often baffles the skill of the wisest and best physicians, is with many a sufficient reason for placing themselves in the hands of quacks, and submitting to the impositions of the most ignorant charlatans.—*Ticknor's Med. Phil.*

An Ossified Man.—The skeleton of Clark is still shown in Dublin, which is without articulations. Every joint of his body was ankylosed, so that, long before death, flexion was impossible in the arms or legs. Even the spine became ossified into a solid, unyielding column of bone, and the jaws being immovable, life was sustained by sucking food through an aperture made by breaking away some of the front teeth.

In the following case there is a repetition of the same class of phenomena which characterized the Dublin man:—

In a quiet little village on the Western Reserve in Ohio, there lives a man who, physiologically considered, is certainly one of the wonders of the world. His joints are completely ossified, and he is not capable of making the slightest movement, except alternately opening and shutting two fingers of his right hand. His body is as rigid as iron, and it could not be bent forward or backward without breaking some of his bones. This singular process of ossification has been going on in his system for more than twenty years. He is now about 46 years old, and has not had the use of his limbs, so that he could walk, since he was nineteen.

Ossification commenced first in his ankle joints, gradually extending itself through his system until he was entirely helpless. Since that time he has been entirely under his mother's care, and she watches over him with an anxiety which only a mother can feel. When about 26 years old, he became entirely blind from some unknown cause, and has remained so ever since. At about 30 he suffered greatly from the toothache, and finally, he had his teeth all extracted. A year or two afterwards his finger and toe nails all came off, and were supplied by others growing out from his fingers and toes at right angles, and presenting the appearance of horns. What is still more singular with regard to his nails, if the end of the nail is cut off, it will bleed freely.

Such is the condition of this remarkable man at the present time. He has been visited by a great number of scientific men, from all parts of the world, but all have failed to give any plausible reason of the cause of his transformation from flesh to bone. Singular as it may appear, although his jaw bone is firmly set in his head, he not only talks freely, but fluently, converses with his friends and those who visit him, on all ordinary topics of the day, and he shows himself well informed and of good mind. He is always cheerful, appears contented and happy, and it seems probable that he will live many years to come.

Increase of Population in Cities.—London contains 250 more souls than it did yesterday. To-morrow it will contain 250 more than it does to-day. A town as large as Brighton is added to London every year, a city as vast as Manchester every four years. There is an increasing disposition in this country, as in Europe, to settle in a city.

METHODS OF DETECTING STRYCHNIA AND BRUCIA.

Experiments on Animals with Strychnia, and probable reasons for non-detection of strychnia in certain cases; and a new method of instituting post-mortem researches in strychnia. By Mr. T. Horsley, Aug., 1856.

In the first lecture, Mr. Horsley observed that the circumstances attending Palmer's trial induced him to make a series of experiments on the subject, and he tried the effects of a precipitant, formed of one part of bichromate of potash dissolved in fourteen parts of water, to which was afterwards added two parts, in bulk, of strong sulphuric acid. This being tried upon a solution of strychnine, the bulk was entirely precipitated in the form of a beautiful golden-colored and insoluble chromate. The experiment, as performed by Mr. Horsley, was very interesting, and scarcely a trace of bitterness was left in the filtered liquor. He did not claim to have originated this discovery of the use of a chromic salt and an acid liquor; but the point to which he called attention was the essential difference in the mode of application, and he maintained that it was as much out of the power of any human being to define the limit of sensibility which he had attained, as it would be to count the sands or to measure the drops of the ocean. Taking thirty drops of a solution of strychnia, containing half a grain, he diluted it with four drams of water. He then dropped in six drops of a solution of bichromate of potash, when crystals immediately formed, and decomposition was complete. Splitting up the half grain of strychnia into millions of atoms of minute crystals, he said that each of these atoms, if they could be separated, would as effectually demonstrate the chemical characteristics of strychnia as though he had operated with a pound weight of the same. He then showed the chemical reaction with those crystals. Dropping a drop of liquor, containing the chromate of strychnia, into an evaporating dish, and shaking it together, he added a drop or two of strong sulphuric acid, and showed the effect, as previously noted. He next showed the discoloration produced in chromate of strychnia, and chromate of brucia by sulphuric acid, the former being changed to a deep purple and then to a violet and red. It had been asserted, since the trial of Palmer, that the non-detection of strychnine in the body of John Parsons Cook, was owing to the antimony, taken by the deceased, having somewhat interfered with the

tests. Such a supposition was, in his (Mr. Horsley's) opinion, absurd. Nothing, he considered, could more incontestably disprove the fallacy than either of two new tests which he then performed. These he considered double tests, because they had first the obtainment of a peculiar crystalline compound of strychnine, which was afterwards made to develop the characteristic effects by which strychnine is recognized. Mr. Horsley next related a series of experiments which he had made on animals with strychnine, and entered into the probable reasons for its non-detection in certain cases, although (as he had just shown before) a method of detecting infinitesimal quantities of strychnine by tests. Having procured three rats at seven o'clock P. M., he (assisted by Dr. Wright) gave each rat a quarter of a grain of powdered strychnia, and two hours afterwards a quarter and half a grain more to one of the three. Next morning at four o'clock they were all alive, and had eaten food (bread and milk) in the night, but at seven, or a few minutes after, they were all dead. The longest liver was one of the rats that had had only a quarter of a grain. In about three hours afterwards he applied the usual test, but could not detect the least indication of strychnine in the precipitate. There was, moreover, a total absence of bitterness in all the liquor. He tried every part of the bodies of the rats with the same results. What, then, became of the strychnine? Had it been decomposed in the organism, and its nature changed, as Baron Liebig intimated? As to the non-detection of strychnine, he thought it not improbable that the strychnine might have become imbibed into the albumen or other solid matter, and so abstracted from the fluid, forming by coagulation (say, for instance, in the blood) a more or less insoluble albuminate. This idea had occurred to him from noticing the coagulation of the glairy white of egg with strychnine, and the fact of his not recovering the full quantity of the alkaloid whenever he had introduced it. At any rate, it merited consideration. In his second experiment he administered three quarters of a grain of strychnia to a wild rat, but the animal evinced little of the effects of the poison, and it was purposely killed after five days. His third experiment was with two grains of strychnia, administered as a pill wrapped up in blotting-paper, to a dog—a full-sized terrier. It was apparently quite well for five hours, when the operator went to bed, but was found dead next morning, but lying apparently in the most

natural position for a dog asleep. When taken up blood flowed freely from its mouth. On opening the animal (continued Mr. Horsley) I found the right ventricle of the heart empty of blood, whilst the left was full, some of the blood being liquid and some clotted. The stomach was carefully secured at both its orifices, and detached. On making an incision, I was surprised at not seeing the paper in which I had wrapped the pill, naturally expecting it would have been reduced to a pulp by the fluid of the stomach. I, therefore, sought for it, and lo! here it is, in precisely the same condition as when introduced into the gullet of the dog, and containing nearly all the strychnine. I have been afraid to disturb it until I had exhibited to you, and now I will weigh the contents, and ascertain how much has been absorbed or dissolved. This experiment is important as showing the small quantity of strychnia necessary to destroy life; and, had I not been thus particular to search for the paper envelope, it might, possibly, have led to fallacy, as I must have used an acid, and that would have dissolved out the strychnia, and the inference would have been that it was obtained from the contents of the stomach, whereas it had never been diffused. In this case, also, none of the absorbed strychnia was detectable in the blood or any part of the animal, although the greatest care was observed in making the experiments. The lecturer, who was listened to throughout with great attention, added that he had made further experiments, which he thought proved that it was highly probable a more or less insoluble compound of organic or animal matter with strychnia is found.—*Am. Jour. of Sci. and Arts.*

Fossil Remains for Manure.—Some years ago Prof. Leibig predicted that Great Britain would eventually receive great additions to her agricultural wealth from the remains of extinct races of animals. Suffolk crag is now being largely employed as a fossil manure. Large tracts have been laid open, and the mammalian remains of a former condition of the world, are made to contribute to the fertilization of the poor, unproductive soil in the neighborhood. An analysis of these extraordinary remains gives 50 per cent. of phosphate of lime, and 20 of carbonate,—for which high prices are given. So much for being a master of chemical science. There is but one Leibig on the earth at present.

Force of Imagination.—About twelve miles from Newburgh, on the Hudson river, it appears that ten years ago, a wealthy farmer named Simonds, "had a presentiment," that he would die on the 20th day of August, 1856. So strongly was he impressed with this strange idea that he regarded his decease, at the time mentioned, as a matter of certainty. He selected a spot for his grave, bought an iron railing to surround it, and had a fine tombstone and an elegant coffin prepared, and brought to his house. On Thursday last, the day indicated by the "presentiment," he had a clergyman and an undertaker at hand, and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, after having partaken, with his friends, of a hearty dinner, he went to bed for the purpose of yielding up the ghost. He tried his best to die, but couldn't, and was at last obliged to confess that he had been the slave of a ridiculous hallucination. It is said that hundreds of people flocked to his house to see him expire. We trust that both they and Mr. Simonds are now convinced that "no man knoweth when the last summons shall come." Superstition is as rife now as it was two centuries ago, but the people of this fast age do not like to acknowledge it.

Health of Lima.—The capital of Peru is generally regarded as a healthful city. It is spoken of in the U. S. exploring expedition thus:

"Fire is not used often; but from the continual dampness there is a cold and clammy feeling that is exceedingly uncomfortable and prejudicial to health. Lima has certainly the reputation of being a healthy place;—how obtained, I know not, but it certainly does not deserve it. The interments have annually averaged over three thousand five hundred, in a population amounting, by the best accounts, to no more than forty thousand. Many of these deaths are those of strangers, and the climate has always been fatal to the Indians.—*Life Illus.*

Tenacity of Life.—The Haverhill, Mass., Gazette relates that a large dog of that town was accidentally fastened beneath the plank floor of a building in process of erection in the rear of Merrimac street, on the afternoon of July 26th, where he remained till the morning of August 16th, twenty-one days, without tasting of a particle of food or water. "Turk's" weight at the time of entering this prison was sixty-eight pounds. When he came out he weighed eighteen pounds less.

FLOATING FACTS.

Dislocation of the Astragalus, upwards.—Wm. N., aged fifteen, farrier, was riding on horseback, when, on turning round a corner, the horse tripped against a curb-stone, and both fell together, the boy pitching, with great force, on the heel. When he was brought into the hospital, there was great swelling about the ankle-joint, with an increase in its breadth, shortening from the malleoli to the sole of the foot, the heel projecting slightly backwards. On extension being made, the head of the astragalus was removed from its unnatural position, between the tibia and fibula, with an audible snap, the great width at the ankle at the same time diminishing. It was kept in position by a splint to the outer side of the leg, and fomentations were used until the inflammation excited by the rupture of the interosseous ligament had subsided. He was discharged, cured, within two months from the date of the receipt of the injury. The peculiarity in this case is the dislocations of the astragalus, upwards, *without* fracture of either of the bones of the leg.—*London Lan.*

Excision of the Head and Neck of the Femur, consequent upon a gun-shot wound, by P. C. O'Leary, Surgeon, 68th Light Infantry.—Private Thomas McKeerena, 68th regiment, aged twenty-three, while on duty in the trenches before Sebastopol, on the 19th of August last, was struck by a piece of shell over the great trochanter of the left femur, which produced a fracture that commenced close to the head of the bone, and extended, obliquely, downwards and forwards, between the great and lesser trochanters, and terminated about an inch and a quarter below the latter. The external wound was small, and at the bottom of it were lying some scales of bone, which were chipped off by the missile from the upper part of the great trochanter. It was decided that this was a favorable case for excision, and on the day following the injury the operation was performed, the patient being placed under the influence of chloroform. The shaft of the thigh-bone was sawn through at the point where the fracture terminated, and the head was removed from the acetabulum. No vessel required a ligature. When the wound was closed by suture, a roller was applied loosely about the upper part of the thigh, and the patient placed upon an air-bed. The limb was suspended in a canvas sling, which swung from a beam over his cot, and elevated at an

angle of about twenty degrees. This method of treatment was adopted in order to promote the approximation of the upper end of the bone to the pelvis, as well as to prevent the lodgment of matter among the tissues and to assist its escape. The pulse did not, for several weeks, fall to 100; the functions, however, were healthfully performed; he ate well, slept soundly, and was cheerful throughout. At the end of the twelfth week he was able to leave his bed, and to move about on crutches, the limb being supported by a broad flannel bandage.

In the middle of January he left the Crimea for England, the wound being nearly closed. I saw him at Chatham in April; he could swing the leg backwards and forwards, and was able, in a limited degree, to flex the leg upon the thigh, and the thigh upon the pelvis. His general health was better than before the injury.—*Ibid.*

This excision is, we believe, the only successful instance upon record.—ED.

Aneurism of the Iliacs; very large aneurism of the external and common iliac arteries, occupying a considerable portion of the right half of the abdomen; formidable operation of deligation of the abdominal aorta just above its bifurcation; survival of the patient forty-three hours.—On the 21st of June, Mr. South ligatured the trunk of the abdominal aorta a little above its bifurcation for a large aneurism of the external and common iliac arteries of the right side, in a strong, healthy, and, apparently, robust young man, aged twenty-eight years. The aneurismal tumor filled the right iliac and lumbar regions, and occupied a considerable portion of the right half of the abdomen, rising above the umbilicus nearly as high up as the cartilages of the ribs, and extending close to the median line. Pulsation in the tumor could be felt with great difficulty, but by the stethoscope a very distinct aneurismal bruit could be heard; sensation was almost completely lost in the whole of the right leg, in consequence of the pressure exercised by the tumour on the nerves emerging from the pelvis on that side. The aneurism had existed for some months, and the young man had been an inmate of St. Thomas's Hospital for the past few weeks. The early history of the case was somewhat obscure, but he had been subject to employment of a very laborious and fatiguing kind. During his stay in the Hospital, it had increased rapidly in size and was extending in every

direction; it became necessary, therefore, to have recourse to surgical measures without delay. The question of tying the common iliac was discussed by Mr. South with his colleagues. The uncertainty as to whether the common iliac was involved, and also the difficulty of getting at it, from the large size of the tumor, induced Mr. South to select the operation of deligating the aorta, which was done with the assistance of his colleagues, in the presence of a large number of students, and many eminent members of the profession.

The left side of the abdomen was opened by an incision, commencing a little above the anterior spinous process of the ilium, and extending upwards to the cartilage of the tenth rib. The various intervening structures were generally cut through until the peritoneum was reached, which membrane was carefully raised by the hands of an assistant, while Mr. South passed a ligature around the aorta from the right to the left side. There was very little time lost in the performance of this highly important operation, which was effected in a very beautiful and satisfactory manner, in consequence of the extremely quiet condition of the patient, who was completely under the influence of chloroform.

This was done at two o'clock on Saturday, the 21st of June. The young man went on remarkably well after it; but he died at nine o'clock on the morning of Monday, the 23d, having survived the operation forty-three hours. At the autopsy the tumor was found to be a false and diffused aneurism, depending upon disease of the coats of the iliac artery with, we believe, laceration.—*Lan.*

Poison by Chloroform.—The most extraordinary over-dose of chloroform yet known was wilfully swallowed by a patient, recently, in London. The man drank, at one draught, four ounces (two wine-glass-fulls)! Wild intoxication, followed by profound insensibility, ensued; but, after various relapses and accidents, he is now quite well.—*Dublin Medical Press.*

Apothecaries in Valparasio.—They are chosen weekly, — to keep their shops open all night. In case of sickness among the citizens, requiring medicine after evening hours, the nearest *vigilante*, or, as we say, policeman, is called. He takes the recipe and passes it to the next, and so on to the shop open for that night, and the remedies are immediately returned to the house, through the same expeditious channel, without trouble to the sick.—*Life Illus.*

On the Influence of Phosphate of Lime in the Production of Callus.—The question of aiding the formation of callus by the administration of phosphate of lime has recently been revived in Paris, and the author of this paper (Milne Edwards) alludes to some experiments tried by M. Gosselin at the Hospital Cochin, especially in cases of fracture of the arm which are sometimes so long in uniting. In the six cases observed by him the result seemed satisfactory, inasmuch as the apparatus could be removed in from twenty-seven to thirty days, the fracture appearing quite consolidated. As, however, in these cases, the condition of the callus could not be verified, M. Edwards undertook a series of comparative experiments on rabbits of the same size and strength, to some only of which the lime was administered. The phosphate employed was prepared by the calcination of bones, and consequently was combined with carbonate. The results were decidedly favorable; and the author believes that the phosphate may be usefully employed as an adjunct, expediting the union in ordinary fractures, and tending to prevent the non-consolidation of others. It appears that in one of M. Gosselin's cases of fracture of the lower third of the humerus, complete consolidation occurred in thirty days. He administers as a minimum dose half a gramme (9 grains) per diem.—*Gazette des Hopitaux.*

Monomania.—The Dayton, Ohio, Gazette details a very remarkable instance of monomania, which has just been terminated in that city, in the case of Rev. Joshua Upson, a Unitarian clergyman, who died at 12 o'clock on Sunday night. He has lived in an almost skeleton condition, abstaining from nourishment for fifteen, twenty, and even thirty days in succession. He has maintained and believed that he did this under the direction of "the spirits," who promised by this course of discipline to develop him into a more extraordinary "medium" than has hitherto been known. He lived under the impression that hundreds of disembodied spirits were constantly talking with him.

Sir Humphrey Davy.—He was the king of modern chemists. For years he was the pet of the scientific world. It was a great rise from an apothecary boy to be the greatest chemist the world had known. Southey says his prosperity changed him not for the better. "It has made him (1821) vain, selfish and sensual, and weaned him from his old friends."

Sulphuric Acid Barometer.—Professor Henry stated to the Association at Albany, that a barometer, filled with sulphuric acid, had been made for the Smithsonian Institution. The objection from its affinity for moisture is avoided, by using a drying tube apparatus, containing chloride of calcium for drying the air that comes in contact with the acid. The tube is 240 inches long and three-fourths of an inch in diameter, and is enclosed in a glass case $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The construction was entrusted to Mr. James Green, of New York.

PLANTS.

“The plants now inhabiting the globe have survived many changes, geological, geographical, and, latterly, historical. The history of their distribution is hence intimately connected with that of the whole vegetable kingdom.

To explain existing facts, it is fortunately unnecessary to adopt any conclusion upon the most obscure hypotheses of Cosmogony and Palæontology, or on the mode of creation of species, the number originally created, and their primitive distribution. Botanical Geography can indicate certain probabilities, certain theories, but the principal facts in distribution depend upon more recent and less obscure causes. It suffices to understand and to allow certain facts and theories, which appear probable, namely, that groups of organized beings, under different hereditary forms (Classes, Orders, Genera, Species, and Races,) have appeared at different places and at different times; the more simple perhaps first, the more complicated afterwards; that each of these groups has had a primitive centre of creation of greater or less extent; that they have, during the period of their existence, been able to become more rare and common, to spread more or less widely, according to the nature of the plants composing them, the means of propagation and diffusion they are possessed of, the absence or presence of animals noxious to them, the form and extent of the area they inhabit, the nature of the successive climates of each country, and the means of transport that the relative positions of land and sea may afford; that many of these groups had become extinct, whilst others have increased, at least so far as can be judged from comparing existing epochs with preceding ones; and lastly, that the latest geological epoch, the Quaternary,

(that which preceded the existence of man in Europe, and which followed the latest elevation of the Alps), has lasted many thousand years, during which, important geographical and physical changes have affected Europe and some neighboring countries, whilst other regions of the globe have suffered no change, or have been exposed to a different series of changes.”

Thus the principal facts of Geology and Palæontology, reduced to the most general and incontestable, suffice to explain the facts of Botanical Geography, or at least to indicate the nature of the explanation, which it requires the progress of many sciences to complete.

LEECHES.

In the travels of Joseph Dalton Hooker, M. D., through Sikkim and Nepaul Himalayas, the following statement occurs:—

“Leeches swarmed in incredible profusion in the streams and damp grass, and among the bushes; they got into my hair, hung on my eyelids, and crawled up my legs and down my back. I repeatedly took upwards of a hundred from my legs, where the small ones used to collect in clusters on the instep; the sores which they produced were not healed for five months afterwards, and I retain the scars to the present day.* . . . Another pest is a small midge or sand-fly, which causes intolerable itching and subsequent irritation, and is in this respect the most insufferable torment in Sikkim; the minutest rent in one's clothes is detected by the acute senses of this insatiable blood-sucker, which is itself so small as to be barely visible without a microscope. We daily arrived at our camping ground, streaming with blood, and mottled with the bites of peepsas, gnats, midges, and mosquitoes, besides being infested with ticks.” (Vol. II. p. 18). “A large tick infests the small bamboo, and a more hateful insect I never encountered. A traveller cannot avoid these insects coming on his person (sometimes in great numbers) as he brushes through the forest; they get inside his dress and insert the proboscis deeply without pain. Buried head and shoulders and retained by a barbed lancet, the tick is only to be extracted by force, which is very painful. I have devised many tortures, mechanical and chemical, to induce these disgusting intruders to withdraw the proboscis, but in vain.” (Vol. I. p. 166.)

*Leeches disappear at the level of 11,500 feet. (vol. II p. 54.)

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communicated for the Medical World.

IODINE WATER.

Having made reference, a week or two since, to a new preparation of iodine, under the impression that there could not be an aqueous solution, the following communication is not only braced by the declaration of Dr. Chilton, of New York, that each fluid ounce contains half a grain of the iodine, but Dr. Anders explains away the objections that might be urged against a long-continued use of iodine in any form.

TO THE EDITORS :

Gentlemen, — Allow me briefly to reply to your article, of 29th October, in *The Medical World*, relative to Iodine Water. I am the physician and chemist you allude to as the discoverer of the only process known for dissolving iodine in pure water; and I contend it enables the Faculty to exhibit that important therapeutic agent with the most beneficial effects, and unaccompanied by those objectionable results which too often follow the administration of iodine in the ordinary well-established officinal preparations. I contend that if the use of iodine has ever resulted in the obliteration of the glands, or in grave injury to the scrotum, it must have arisen from its usual combination with potassium, mercury, &c.; for in my personal experience of the past two years, I have exhibited the iodine dissolved in water only, in hundreds of cases of consumption, scrofula, palsy, rheumatism, &c., and always with the happiest results. In one case of pulmonary affection, I gave it to a lady constantly for six months, without occasioning the slightest appearance of the absorption of the breast, and the patient is now hearty, strong, stout, and doing well. In another case I administered the iodine water, for six months, to a gentleman, and the result was his restoration to perfect health, with no diminution whatever of his virile energy. I might adduce other and equally striking instances. The names of the parties alluded to are at your disposal, but I forbear for want of space. I present the facts merely to show the “sovereign therapeutic energy of the new medicine,” as you felicitously term it, and at the same time to demonstrate that none of the evil consequences flow from its long-continued use, which we are so

ready to apprehend when iodine is given in combination with some other article of the pharmacopœia.

Yours, respectfully,

HENRY ANDERS, M. D.

New York, Nov. 7, 1856.

I have analyzed the “Iodine Water,” prepared by Dr. Anders, and find it to be a solution of pure iodine in water. It has long been a desideratum to prepare iodine so that it can be administered in its uncombined state; this preparation by Dr. Anders enables us to effect that object. Each fluid ounce of the water contains about half a grain of iodine.

I consider it a valuable preparation, and one which will prove serviceable in all those cases where the use of iodine is indicated.

JAMES R. CHILTON, M. D., CHEMIST.

New York, May 22d, 1856.

Communicated for the Medical World.

KINESIPATHY.

EDITORS MEDICAL WORLD :

Dear Sirs,—In a copy of your excellent journal just received, it appears that you have taken notice of that, to this country, new science called KINESIPATHY. But there is a statement in the article which calls for correction — saying that “Prof. Georgii, from Sweden, who has a large establishment in London, is the originator of this singular practice.”

Allow me to set the matter right before your readers, and in so doing, I am sure none will be more pleased than Prof. Georgii himself.

This treatment, as a science, was first introduced to the world by PETER HENRY LING, of Sweden. About the commencement of the present century, he conceived the idea of systematizing and scientifically applying peculiar and determined movements for peculiar diseases. In the year 1813 he succeeded in obtaining a grant from Government, founding an establishment in Stockholm, over which he presided, forming there a central institution having two departments, the first consisting of movements or exercises for healthy persons, in which teachers were instructed to introduce the science into the common schools of the country: the second department was that in which movements were given for the cure of disease. This medical department has its

separate school, with its own anatomical hall, and the professors are paid by government.

About sixteen years ago, Mr. I. G. de Beton carried the science from Sweden to London, Eng., and practised with considerable success till he retired, but there are now in London three establishments in the hands of able professors. Dr. Blundell having one, Dr. Roth another, and Professor Georgii the third. Prof. Georgii is one of two pupils to whom LING, on his death-bed, bequeathed the task of more fully carrying out his ideas and diffusing the system. The other, Prof. Branting, is now at the head of the central establishment in Stockholm.

Dr. C. Donovan, of London, a pupil of Prof. Georgii, has recently returned home, having imparted instruction in this science to the subscriber.

Should you desire further information in regard to the science of KINESIPATHY, I shall be most happy to furnish the same.

Yours truly, CHAS. H. SHEPARD.
650 Sixth ave., N. Y., Nov. 1st., 1856.

NOTE.—We should be gratified to receive further communications from Dr. Shepard at his convenience.
EDITORS.

Communicated for the Medical World.

NEURALGIA.

A PRESCRIPTION.

TO THE EDITORS:

Gentlemen,—As your Journal is designed to benefit the “medical world” so far as they are disposed to avail themselves of any information it may contain, I forward you a prescription which I consider of much value. It is well known in the profession that Neuralgia is a most difficult malady to treat with success, and no one perhaps so often baffles medication, placing the physician in a “perplexing predicament.”

For the benefit, therefore, of those of the profession who may wish to use it, I submit the following.

R. Sulph. zinci
Pulv. valeriana
Ext. Hyoscrami aa. grs. XII
fr pil. no. 12.

At their request, I have given the prescription to several physicians, both in and out of this city, and so far as I have learned the results of its trial, they have been successful and satisfactory.

My method of administering it has been one pill at night, and one in the morning, and if the case assumes a severity that will warrant it, an additional pill may be administered in the course of the forenoon.

In all cases of Neuralgia, except facial, this remedy has been very successful, and in some cases of the latter kind it has procured marked relief.

The effect of the remedy must be watched, and I should recommend that it be not persisted in beyond the number of twelve pills, as it never fails to produce its desired effect in that time, if it prove beneficial at all.

In my hands it has proved very successful, and I trust it may prove equally so in the hands of those of the profession who may see fit to test it.

I am, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Nov. 8, 1856. H. G. BARROWS, M. D.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. Macdermott has published in England, a report in regard to the climate of Caledonia Bay, and that part of the Isthmus of Darien recently explored.

Dr. D. Macpherson, inspector-general of hospitals, has prepared an interesting paper on the ancient Greek city of Panticapæum, — now Kertch, once the residence of Mithridates. He explored a vast number of tumuli, the tombs of the ancient Bosphorian kings, and brought to light extraordinary specimens of ancient art. The hair, teeth, jaw-bones, and the femurs were in a tolerable state of preservation, but the bodies were reduced to a fine dust.

A medical man, for a wonder, is up for political office in California, — Dr. J. S. Curtis, of Yolo County, — for the Assembly.

Dr. James Edwards, of San Francisco, is the publisher of a weekly political paper, in that city, which is printed in English, German, and French.

Dr. F. R. Kibbe, of Sierra County, California, is nominated for coroner. They are in favor there of having medical men in that office, as they are beginning to here at the East.

A new State Medical Society is in contemplation in Mississippi. The physicians are requested to meet for an organization, in the town of Jackson, on the 13th of December next.

Townsend's American Sarsaparilla is taken with a gusto in London, — the market being active and consumers numerous. John Bull is a liberal patron of quacks and quack medicines.

A medical society is allowed to be formed in Constantinople, by the government. But it will not have a Turkish element in it, as the members are to be English medical men, residing at Scutari, on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus.

A terrible and fatal mistake was made by an apothecary's boy, in Weymouth, England, lately, by putting up *black drop*, labelled *aperient draught*, by which a mother was deceived, and her son, eleven years old, sent to a premature grave.

Dr. Felix Mavnard, ex-sanitary physician, is the author of a volume entitled "Recollections of a *Zouave* before Sebastopol."

A work with the title of "*First Book of Etymology*," by Joseph Thomas, M. D., is in press.

Dr. Clark, the owner of Congress Spring, at Saratoga, N. Y., is said to be in the annual receipt of \$75,000 from the sale of the water. The proprietors of the Iodine Spring have a revenue from their fountain, about a mile from the Congress, that is very large, also.

An extraordinary operation was recently performed by Dr. Gross, in Philadelphia, for the removal of a tumor connected with the superior maxillary bones of a female, with a good prospect of success.

It is a mistake that none of the medical books published at New York and Philadelphia, are not to be had in Boston.

Dr. Finney, a senator of Virginia, has been fighting a duel with the editor of a Richmond paper, and was himself wounded. Had he given his antagonist a dose of medicine instead of a bullet, the result might have been different.

The Female Medical College, in this city, is to have a new supply of anatomical apparatus from Paris. Quite a large sum has recently been raised in Boston by subscription, for the purpose.

The *Cincinnati Gazette* states that William Haughton, employed in Wright's dry goods store, was taken to Dr. Freeman's office, Oct. 30th, in a state of great suffering, caused by a spider's bite near the abdomen, received a few hours before.

The case was treated by Dr. Freeman; two or three other physicians were called in during the afternoon, but as the patient was

very low, and they belong to a different school from Dr. Freeman, they did not act in the matter. The sufferings of Mr. H. continued to increase until late in the afternoon, when he died, apparently from the effects of the bite.

The case has already excited considerable attention in the medical profession, and some physicians, of long practice, state that it is the only affair of the kind which has ever come within their knowledge.

Children born in January, February, and March, are considered to have the best prospect of good health.

Dr. Jewett, formerly a practising physician, and subsequently known very extensively as a popular lecturer on Temperance, has settled on a farm, near St. Paul, Minnesota, and relinquished the two former vocations.

A man is exhibiting himself at Havana, who was born without arms or legs. He can spin a top, thread a needle, go up and down a ladder, uncork a bottle with a corkscrew, and load a fowling piece, besides some other astonishing feats.

A new edifice is being erected in New Orleans for a medical college. That is pleasant intelligence. The more schools the more students, and a corresponding influence.

In ancient Syria, the Franciscan monks possess sixteen establishments called hospitals. They are far inferior to hospitals in Europe or America. We have personally visited several of them, and can speak decidedly in favor of the kindness and hospitality of those in charge of those charities in that land of selfishness and oppression.

A medical dispensary for the gratuitous service of the poor, has been organized in the city of Roxbury, near Boston.

At the University of Lemberg, in Poland, there is a preparatory school of medicine. The education of the pupils must of necessity be completed at Vienna. In 1854, in a class of sixty-five, forty-one of the number were Jews.

At the present moment, throughout all civilized countries, the most learned men in the various departments of science are reputed to be Jews and the descendants of Jews; musicians, astronomers, professors of medicine, philologists, mathematicians, and certainly the most influential bankers, with Rothschild at the head of the list.

A widow lady recently died in New York, from violent sneezing, which was presumed to have ruptured a blood-vessel, as life was very quickly extinct after sneezing the last time.

Prof. Balfour, of the University of Edinburgh, gives life to the botanical lectures at the Botanical Garden. His specimens are immense, and his tact, knowledge and affability inspire ardor in that domain of nature.

A German paper asserts that prussic acid only causes suspension of life at first, and that one who takes it can be restored to animation by the pouring of the acetate of potash and salt dissolved in water, on the head and spine.

The *Tyrone*, (Ireland) *Constitution*, records the death of Thomas M'Cusland, aged 104, at Seskanore, on the 25th ult. He had always resided in his native place, and was never known to complain of illness until within the last few months. He had no disease of any kind, but sank from weakness or general debility.

Death of Dr. Percival, the Geologist.—Dr. James G. Percival was one of Connecticut's most distinguished sons, whether we look at him as a poet or a naturalist. Dr. P. was born in Berlin, Sept. 15, 1795. He was therefore nearly 61 years old when he died. He graduated from Yale College in 1815, distinguished for his scholarship and his poetical writings. His first volume of poems was published in 1820, which was followed by "Clio" and "Prometheus." In 1823, he finished his medical studies, and was in 1824 appointed a professor at West Point; but he never served in that station, owing to his want of health, and to that peculiar reserve of character which was now creeping upon him, and which amounted almost to monomania. A volume of his poems was republished in London about this time. His poem at New Haven in 1825, before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, was always highly spoken of.

In 1835 Governor Edwards of this State appointed him State Geologist, and, under the direction of the Legislature, he made a Geological Survey of the State—a work distinguished for its great learning and research, but which was defective in method, and in distinctness of practical application. In 1854 he was appointed State Geologist of Wisconsin, the survey of which State he was accomplishing at the time of his death.

His poetry was distinguished for smoothness of versification, simplicity of diction, an ardent and pure love of nature, and appropriate imagery. He was noted for his descriptive powers,

and for mingling philosophical thoughts in these descriptions, which prevented them from being tame, or a mere collection of "rocks, waters, woods." His poetry is that of the heart, not the imagination, and if it almost always borders on the sad or the severe, his idiosyncrasy must be borne in mind; and it must be remembered too that it always bordered on the devout. His muse might see nature with an eye of gloom, but the gloom was submissive and quiet, and was always conversant with pure thoughts and ennobling conceptions.

Dr. Percival was noted for the variety of his attainments, and for his unwillingness that the world should know it. Hence he was called a visionary by some, and a misanthrope by others. He was a man of whom Connecticut has a right to feel proud, and whom she will number among the bright galaxy of her distinguished sons.

Was she Insane?—After reading this case, please to decide whether the first wife was insane, and if so, is she entitled to the property?

"In the Surrogate's Court, New York, the case of Black, vs. Black was called up for argument, on the application of the first wife of the late John Black, to have letters of administration granted to the exclusion of the second wife. It would appear that about twenty years since John Black had a wife and two children, and had also a flourishing candy shop in the Bowery, New York. His wife was infected with a religious monomania, and came to New Jersey and founded a sect of non-feminine women, who did not believe in the marriage state as a divine institution, and this sect they set up in New Jersey, under the name of "Perfectionists." Black, finding his wife would not return to his home, married another, having first been divorced in the State of New Jersey, no doubt on the plea that his wife had forsaken his bed and board.

In March last, Mr. Black died, leaving a widow and two sons to divide his estate of \$25,000. About a month after the old man's death the youngest son died, and Elizabeth Black and the eldest son obtained letters of administration to the estate. The first wife then comes in with her claims to oust Elizabeth, as unlawful, as the divorce was not binding in New York State; and, moreover, as she was not served, as she alleges, with the process. The Sheriff swears that he served the papers, and it is argued that the decrees of sister States should always be respected.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 12, 1856.

CLIMATOLOGY OF THE UNITED STATES.—A very learned and important work is nearly ready from the press of Messrs. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, which will treat of the temperate latitudes of the North American continent, and embrace a full comparison of them with the climatology of the temperate latitudes of Europe and Asia. Further, there will be a special reference to agriculture, sanitary investigations and engineering, with isothermal and rain charts, by Loring Blodget, author of several publications on American climatology.

This enterprise is one of magnitude; but it so happens the number of persons who are naturally interested in such subjects as have occupied the learned author's mind, is small, compared to those who read productions of far less value. He must be sustained by responsible subscribers. The price of a large octavo, containing four hundred and fifty pages, is to be only four dollars.

It will be illustrated by Twelve Superior Engravings, on a new Outline Map ten by twenty-two inches, embracing the whole North American continent from the twenty-fifth to the fiftieth degree of North latitude. Five of these are Illustrations of the Distribution of Heat in Isothermal Lines, lithographed in colors, and five are Shaded and Tinted Charts, representing the Distribution of Rain. The former are after the model of Humboldt's Isothermal Lines; the latter are new—both being new as positive scientific results for the North American continent. The next is an illustration of the Comparative Temperatures of the two Continents in Temperate Latitudes, similar to Humboldt's Isothermal Charts, but embracing the corrections derived from the most recent observations, those in the United States coming down to June, 1855. All these results are based on the most complete summaries of nearly all existing American observations, including those taken by the officers of the Medical Department of the United States Army.

The volume also embraces the Report on the Distribution of Temperature and of Rain in the United States, based on and accompanying the Climatological Statistics of the Surgeon's General Office, recently prepared for publication by the author.

The following are the divisions of the work:

- I. Summary of Statistics of Meteorological observations, at the Military Posts, Colleges, and other points in the United States.
- II. Climatological features of Surface and Configuration: Physical Geography.
- III. General Character of the Climate of the United States, east of the Rocky Mountains.
- IV. General Character of the Interior and Pacific Climates.
- V. Climatology of the Great Basin, (Fremont's Basin of the Interior.)
- VI. Distinctive general features of the Pacific Coast Climates.
- VII. Comparison of the Temperate Climates of

- both Continents of the Northern Hemisphere.
- VIII. Specific Comparison of the Eastern United States, with Western Europe.
- IX. Comparison of the Arid and Interior Areas of the two Continents.
- X. Distribution of Heat in the United States Monthly and for the Season.
 1. Spring.
 2. Summer.
 3. Autumn.
 4. Winter.
 5. Year.
 With general explanations of the Isothermal Charts.
- XI. Distribution of Rain, or Precipitation in Rain and Snow, in Divisions for each Season, and the Year, with explanations of the Illustrative Charts.
- XII. The Winds of the United States, with Weather Phenomena generally—European comparisons.
- XIII. General Winter Storms of the United States.
- XIV. Comparison of the Basin of the Gulf of Mexico with that of the Mediterranean Sea, their respective Coast Climates, &c.
- XV. Specific Climatological range of Native Forests and Vegetation.
- XVI. Climatological range of Cultivated Staples of Tropical or Semi-Tropical Origin.
- XVII. Climatology of Cereal Grains and of Grasses in the United States.
- XVIII. Vertical range of Vegetation—the Snow Line in the United States.
- XIX. General Sanitary Relations of the United States Climate. Malarious districts, &c.
- XX. Permanence of the principal conditions of Climate.
- XXI. Physical Constants of Variation of Temperature, and of Atmospheric Weight affecting Barometric Determination of Heights, &c. Diagrams.

We have been thus particular, in order to induce medical gentlemen to give their influence in support of this scientific undertaking, which will redound to the honor of the country. Men of the highest scientific eminence are cheerfully extending their patronage. On the subscription list are the following physicians, viz.: Dr. S. P. Hildrett, Marietta, Ohio; Drs. Charles A. Pope, M. M. Patten, M. L. Linton, S. Pollock and W. H. Tingley, St. Louis, Missouri; Dr. Stephen Smith, New-York; Dr. Wm. A. Irvine, Pa., Dr. G. W. Hazeltine, Jamestown, N. Y.; Dr. A. C. Blodget, Youngsville, Pa.; Dr. E. S. Stewart, Farmersville, N. Y.; Dr. A. S. Baldwin, Jacksonville, Florida; Dr. Wm. Baer, Sykesville, Dr. M. K. Taylor, Galesburg, Ill., &c. together with the principal professors in various prominent literary and scientific institutions in the various States.

Any names left at this office would be cheerfully forwarded to the author.

NOTE.—The communication of Dr. Bruce, last week, should have been S. instead of R. S. Bruce, M. D.

STUDYING MEDICINE AT HOME AND ABROAD.—Some statistical information was given in the *Medical World*, last week, of the enormous expense of studying medicine and surgery in London. In France the cost is next to nothing, since there are neither lecture nor hospital fees to be paid. No one in his senses would pretend to underrate the value of the course of instruction or the advantages presented in the numerous charities of Paris.

Let us institute a comparison between the cost of a course of lectures here and in France. In the first place, the money paid for the lectures in most of the schools of medicine in any of the States, would pay the passage of a student in a sailing vessel to Liverpool or Havre, and leave him enough in purse to defray necessary expenses for some weeks in Paris.

Aside from the ordinary business of hearing and seeing, day after day, the different public teachers, selected on account of their superior talents and fitness for lecturers, by concours, and not through the influence of family friends, the accomplishment of another language is a consideration. By listening attentively, week in and week out, although commencing without any acquaintance with the French, it is surprising how quickly the listener begins to comprehend the speaker. A physician speaking two languages has a manifest superiority over another who commands but one. This, however, is not a point to be discussed in this connection; the object is simply to show that it is neither an expensive affair, nor a difficult undertaking for any student of medicine to pass six months or a year in France. Who, then, would not make the voyage? Travel has its influence on the individual, also, and enlarges his views and gives him the exercise of new powers, of consequence in all the after intercourse of life.

While we are stanch advocates for home institutions and home associations, we are also equally impressed with the value of travel and the influences of foreign acquaintance and observation. It liberalizes and enlarges the views of those who might otherwise overrate the social, literary, and scientific character of a newer country, although destined, ultimately, to great distinction in the future catalogue of nations.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND ART.—A feeling of national pride, were no higher motive called into activity, might induce many gentlemen to give their influence as well as individual subscription towards the support of the *American Journal of Science and Art*. It interferes with no other serial enterprises; meddles with no sectional sentiments; glorifies no members of a mutual admiration society; but simply diffuses among its readers, whatever is new and useful in science and art, gathered from all sources in all countries. Whenever it makes a departure from its present commanding position, and becomes the tool of a scientific pretender or hypocrite, to herald the small fame of small men, instead of useful knowledge, we shall be as prompt in warning that

extensive circle whom we have the honor of addressing fifty-two weeks in a year, to withdraw their patronage, as we now are to urge them to take it.

Besides being under the immediate editorial control of gentlemen of great attainments in science, the translations from foreign languages, and having a synopsis of all that is being achieved by laborious researches of the learned at every point on the habitable globe, it furnishes also that kind of food for the mind, which elevates and dignifies those who avail themselves of the feast spread before them.

No one will accuse us of entertaining selfish purposes in thus recommending both medical and literary persons to subscribe, when the fact is distinctly stated that no one connected with that publication, either in the capacity of proprietor or writer, is one of our second or third cousins, or related by marriage, nor has any one promised to praise our efforts in return for a civility.

Those who have not examined the work, might procure a specimen by addressing the editors at New Haven, Conn.

We have an instinctive curiosity to understand the character, habits, and physical condition of the races that preceded us on the earth's surface. Every old fossil bone is a record of the past history of things; and each undecomposed tooth of a mastodon brought to light in turning up the virgin soil of the West, relates its own autobiography in the *American Journal*. These and the daily progress of discovery in science and art give vitality and unflagging interest to us in that messenger of curious intelligence.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY.—Number six of the twenty-eighth volume, and the fourth volume of the new series, was published the first day of November. For a long time it has been under the editorial supervision of William Proctor, Jr., a professor of Pharmacy in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. By discreet management, and a close adherence to the legitimate field the Pharmaceutical Association proposed for culture, the *Journal* has acquired a high reputation.

On the presumption that the publication is patronized by the whole fraternity of druggists throughout the country, it is quite unnecessary to show by argument, how much those may lose who do not, because they must be conscious of the impossibility of keeping up in the race for scientific knowledge in the special line of their vocation, without being familiar with the labors and discoveries of others.

It was an evidence of the wise forethought and enterprise of that great body of drug merchants who stood between physicians and the people, when the *Journal of Pharmacy* was devised. By its tone and authority, uniformity is established in a variety of ways in their business, and whatever is discovered or invented, at once becomes familiar to all through the pages of this well-conducted bi-monthly.

For those who are not conversant with the department of science which engrosses the consideration of the Society, no deep interest can be felt. Every reflecting physician, however, must acknowledge the importance of their studies and the dignity of their mission. It is vain to prescribe, if there is no confidence to be had in the pharmaceutic preparations which are relied upon to counteract disease. Even the simplest forms of medicine, — the roots, barks, flowers, leaves, and seeds of plants, must be prepared under the cognizance of responsible persons, and who is the profession to rely upon, or who could they substitute, were the practical pharmacutists to stand aside?

For some years we have watched with pleasure the progress of this Journal, and there is no mistaking its position. It instructs and elevates its readers, if they study with a view to improvement in the branch which embraces the entire domain of chemical science.

These are but preliminary observations in regard to the claims and utility of the serial to which the attention of our own patrons is referred, with a hope that they may assist in extending its circulation. Merit does not always have its reward, but that does not destroy the expectation of ultimately having it.

On a future occasion, we shall refer to the Journal again.

A STATUE OF DR. JOHN COLLINS WARREN. — Throughout Europe, the evidences of gratitude and respect for the memory of medical men who are regarded as benefactors of the race, are common. In order to give physicians of every country in which the services of Jenner to mankind are acknowledged, a subscription paper was sent to the physicians of the United States, from London, a few years since, and to the various continental governments, that the physicians there also might have the privilege of contributing towards the erection of a colossal bronze Statue of the great discoverer of a remedy against small-pox. Vesalius is remembered by a magnificent Statue in the ancient city of Brussels, the capital of Belgium; and other places of historical celebrity, possess similar tangible acknowledgements of obligation for the services and brilliant achievements of medical practitioners, teachers, and philosophers.

But in America, which has already had a bright catalogue of distinguished medical worthies, who, like the low descending sun, appeared larger at their going down, not a statue, an obelisk, an urn,—not a classic inscription nor a grave-stone has been reared by the united profession, as a memorial for posterity, to shadow forth the interest or respect in which an individual was held, who adorned the medical ranks to which he belonged, and because he gave character and lustre to the age in which he lived.

Dr. Warren accomplished what no one had achieved before him in this Union or any where. He persuaded the legislature to legalize the study of human anatomy. He was eminently a good man, a surgeon of vast

experience and celebrity, and without a rival in the chair of descriptive anatomy while in his occupancy.

But independently of his labors as a professor, a skilful operator, and author, Dr. Warren's special claim to public gratitude is founded on the fact, that through his own untiring individual efforts, countenanced, indeed, and sustained by the medical fraternity of Massachusetts, the law which regarded the study of anatomy on the subject, a crime against the Commonwealth, was repealed, and students, and all others disposed to pursue investigations into the structure of the dead human body, are now protected as they would be in the pursuit of any department of study to qualify themselves for usefulness in society.

Would it not redound to the lasting honor of the physicians of Massachusetts, to be instrumental in rearing the Statue of one whose crowning glory was to give his own body for dissection, after having secured for those who might come after him, in all coming generations, free, open, unlimited opportunity for pursuing descriptive or surgical anatomy, protected by law instead of be criminated by the law.?

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 8.

Michael Crumlish 2 yrs., Michael Purcell 38 do., Timothy Connelly 68 do., Nancy McCarty 43 do., Ann Coleman 4 do., Michael Kennely 60 do., Dennis Dennene 40 do., Timothy Coffee 6 do., Lois W. Todd 41 do., Moses Straus 48 do., George F. Ramsell 4 do., Ellen M. Lord 19 do., Margaret McGovern 37 do., John Conway 43 do., Mary A. Seaton 2 do., Mary McEwen 89 do., Annie Fitzgerald 2 do., Mary Havlin 58 do., James Moore 21 do., Augustus H. Pitman 19 do., Ellen Paine 6 mos., Fanny Burke 10 do., Thomas Hall 18 do., Ida G. Downes 2 do., James Doherty 10 days, Wm. Campbell 43 do., Mary E. Garland 4 do., Timothy Callahan 9 mos., Anna Zazeyky 7 do., Julia E. Fowler 19 do., Elizabeth Brennan 15 do., Peter Byrne 15 do., Catharine Lane 12 do., Peletiah Harmon 68 yrs., Catharine Floyd 54 do., Louis Martinette 5 do., Mary O'Brien 31 do., Waterman G. Winters 49 do., Martha Nicolls 61 do., John Evans 1 mo., Sarah J. McKeon 12 mos., Ann McKeon 3 yrs., Joseph Wermers 2 do., Samuel E. Cann 12 do., Rachel Green 25 do., David Appleby 43 do., Bernard McGahagan 44 do., Henry Morse 34 do., Timothy Driscoll 24 do., Francis Smith 50 do., Thomas Ure 9 mos., Wm. H. McConville 8 do., Margaret O'Flaherty 5 do., child of Michael and Margaret Sexton 1 day, Ann Power 4 mos., Matthew Grace 4 yrs., Charles B. Flusk 5 do., Catharine McCarty 6 do., Margaret Griffin 18 do., Lucy O. Otis 46 do., Sarah E. Erskine 21 days, Jo'n F. Emerson 4 yrs., Margaret M. Mat-tel 43 do., John Flynn 26 do., Laura Burke 5 mos.

DISEASES. — Congestion of the brain 3, consumption 10, convulsions 3, croup 2, cholera infantum 3, dysentery 2, infantile diseases 2, typhoid fever 2, scarlet fever 11, homicide 2, intemperance 2, inflammation of lungs 5, mortification 2, pleurisy 3, teething 3, other diseases 1 each, 12; total 69. Born in the United States, 48; Ireland 17, other foreign places 4.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

NOVEMBER 26, 1856.

NUMBER 9.

SCIENCE OF HUMANITY.

On the 21st of May, 1856, the corner stone of the third public Hospital for the Insane in Massachusetts, which is to be supported by the State, was laid in the beautiful rural town of Northampton, with solemn ceremonies.

On that interesting occasion, an address was delivered by Edward Jarvis, M. D., of Dorchester, Mass., who has written well upon physiology and various other subjects which may be grouped under the general term of medical philosophy.

Dr. Jarvis has manifested, for many successive years, a degree of interest in the management of lunatics that is creditable to his heart, and honorable to him as a man of science, and enlarged views in regard to the laws of humanity. Why he has not been placed at the head of some of the many institutions for the treatment of the insane, years ago, is a question that might be asked with propriety.

The address, to which these hasty preliminary observations refer, abounds with excellent thoughts and suggestions. No doubt it has been widely circulated, but *The Medical World* is a medium that will give further circulation.

DIVERSITIES OF MENTAL HEALTH.

Among the inequalities, that belong to mankind, that of mental power and mental health is marked and prominent. As in bodily health and strength, and as in education and fortune and all external circumstances, so in the powers of the mind, there are every variety and degree from the highest down to the lowest. From him who is the wisest and the best balanced, down to him who is the weakest and the wildest in intellect, there is every grade of power and health of mind.

CAUSES OF MENTAL DISORDER.

Some of the causes of these mental diversities are inherent in man. Some are born with him. Many are created and developed and grown, in the progress of his being. Some

of these causes are intimately connected with the condition and the affairs of common life. They belong to, or grow out of, many of the customs and presumed advantages of the cultivated state. They are often the mere perversion or the misapplication of some of the powers of our being, of the privileges of our condition, the excessive or the misdirected use of some of the natural and living forces, the indiscreet appropriation of some of the opportunities and blessings offered to man and to society.

These powers and privileges, when rightly employed, build man up and make him strong, and successful, and happy. But when they are misapplied, or unfitted to the circumstances of life, they overthrow and distress him.

In their appropriate use they are allowed and encouraged — they are practised by, and render profit to, general society, and all are advised to make use of and try to enjoy them. But though they are successfully used by many, yet it is only under appropriate circumstances, that they produce or sustain mental health or leave it unimpaired, for, in other conditions, they exhaust and disturb the mind and the moral affections. Not unfrequently they cause intellectual weakness and sometimes mental derangement, and then, when least expected, insanity is established. So it often proves that the very means which bring the most desirable blessings to those who use them judiciously and in most men's hands are successful, are, to the indiscreet and the unfortunate, the sources of one of the direst evils that fall upon humanity.

Among the fruitful causes of insanity are inappropriate and perverted application of the powers of the mind and body, the intemperate or excessive use of the gifts or the opportunities allowed to us, the things, which a benevolent Providence lends us for blessings, and are such in the hands of the wise and faithful: —

The intemperate indulgence of every appetite, passion and propensity, of every faculty and power of body or of mind, beyond their

due measure, or beyond that which is required of them: — the excessive use of food and drinks, especially of those of the stimulating sort: — The excessive action and the misappropriation of the mental forces: — The overwrought feelings and emotions: — The eager desire and the earnest but unsuccessful exertion to acquire knowledge or position or influence, to obtain any blessing or advantage which is above the power of him who strives for it, and who for this purpose, makes exertions which are beyond the power of the brain or mind to sustain without faltering: — all these tend to produce and frequently create mental disorder.

Misplaced hope and undue ambition, the overwhelming and insatiable anxiety to secure that which seems to be within the grasp, but yet is beyond the reach, and the disappointment which necessarily follows, when failure comes: — The fluctuations of business: — The high seeming prosperity followed by certain adversity: — The sudden possession of unaccustomed wealth: — The elevation to positions of power or responsibility, of honor, fashion or social rank, which are beyond the mental or moral strength, or above the degree of cultivation or refinement necessary to sustain them with ease or satisfaction.

The assumption of any burden upon the mind or the feelings, the brain or the nervous system, which the natural and original forces, the previous training and education and the experience of life have not prepared one sufficiently to bear:

The deep depressions of grief, the corroding and exhausting anxieties of doubt and of fear, and the heavy sorrows that weigh on the heart when friends are in danger or are lost:

The excitements of Religion above what true piety and godliness require, of politics, of party, or benevolence beyond what reason and truth can justify. The imagination when highly wrought in regard to things infinite and eternal, and to mortal man incomprehensible and unattainable, and even when unnaturally bent on things of lower and more intelligible nature: — All these are dangerous to mental health. They frequently impair it and sometimes destroy it.

The manifold accidents from machinery, from travel, from the use of powers, that are converted, but not always subdued, to the use of man: — *

These are among the many causes of mental derangement, and they are, or they seem to be, the most prominent and frequent here, in our State and nation.

In their lesser and more proper degrees, most of these, or rather the steps that lead to these, are tolerated and encouraged by public opinion. Many of them receive its high approbation, and people engage in them, or are exposed to them, with hopes of advantage or justifiable enjoyment and feelings of security, and with no suspicion that any evil may come upon their minds or that they may thereby be drawn into lunacy.

SOME CAUSES OF MENTAL DISORDER BELONG TO THE CIVILIZED STATE.

Many of these causes of mental disorder, or rather the customs, habits or indulgences, out of which these causes grow, are inherent in the very structure of society — they form a part of its framework: They enter into and add their part to the life of our social being. They belong especially to the more cultivated condition, such as we enjoy in this most favored land. For here the mind is free and the choice of all things is offered to all men to select that which they may have power to obtain.

Here no man is bound down to the condition or the walk or the occupation of his fathers, nor even to that which he himself is now following, but all the walks and employments are open to all men and at all times, and they may select whatever they wish, whether fitted or unfitted to their capacity and powers, and they may change as often as it pleases them. Here education is free to every child and to every man and woman, and learning may grow luxuriantly even on the soil which barren ignor-

The causes are condensed and classified in the following table:

Ill health of various kinds,	3586
Apoplexy, Epilepsy and Palsy,	592
Female Derangements,	1415
Injuries and Accidents,	338
Exposures to Heat, Cold, &c.,	226
Excess of Labor, Privation of Sleep, &c.,	522
Excess of Study, Mental Struggles, Excitements, &c.,	472
Anxieties, Struggles and Trials of Business, Poverty, &c.,	1134
Disappointments in respect to Ambition, Property, &c.,	156
Disappointed Love,	558
Spirit Rappings and Mesmerism,	182
Fright and Fear,	182
Home Sickness,	46
Grief, Sorrow and Anxiety,	1549
Domestic Troubles, Persecutions, &c.,	665
Connected with Religion,	1280
Bad Education, Wrong plan of Life,	67
Intemperance,	1788
Use of Tobacco and Opium,	110
Vicious Indulgence,	1011
Bad Temper, Passion, &c.,	161

* The reports of sixteen Hospitals, in the United States, give the supposed cause of insanity of 14,941 out of 24,723 patients received during all or a part of the years of their operation.

ance covered before, if one will but take the trouble to cultivate it.

Here Religion invites all to come and enjoy any of her diversified forms, each in the way best suited to his own mental condition or his conscience.

Here every man and every woman may believe and proclaim any doctrine or the principles of any party; and they may pour forth their convictions, with all the zeal of earnest propagandism.

Here emotions may burn and speak out, and passion may riot unrestrained.

These blessings, privileges or opportunities belong to our civilized state, and cannot here be extinguished.

A higher civilization than we possess, or even the world has yet known, would restrain these within the just limits of prudence, and health, and make them, in all cases, subserve the greater interests and create the best happiness of man.

EDUCATION IMPERFECT FOR MENTAL HEALTH.

There is yet more for our civilization to do. We need more and better knowledge of ourselves, and of our powers, their nature and their limit, their uses and their relation to the outer world.

We need more self-discipline, more control of our emotions and desires, of our appetites and our passions.

When we educate our children or ourselves, we need to know the precise limit of the power to acquire knowledge. When we grasp at privileges, or blessings or positions, we need to know the extent of the arm to reach and the strength of the hand to hold.

When we assume any burdens on the mind or the affections, we need to understand how far we are able to bear them. Before we attempt to effect any purpose, we ought to understand the degree of our energy to labor and the measure of our strength to accomplish.

It is a common and favorite notion that the human mind, man's immortal part, has an unlimited power of labor, of acquisition, and of endurance. But this has no foundation in the laws of our present being. The immortal mind, so long as it dwells in the body, is necessarily connected with the brain, and is subject to its conditions, and liable to its sufferings, and yet this essential and irrevocable law of life is neither recognized nor taught as a matter of universal or even general obligation. We educate our children in the schools and ourselves at our homes, or in the world — but

we neither learn for ourselves, nor do we tell them, that there is a bound beyond which our mental exertions cannot safely go, a limit of acquirement which cannot be passed. We neither learn nor teach the connection between the mind and the brain, the relation of the mental operations, the emotions and passions to the physical frame, and thus the conditions which are appointed for all the human family, for the government of their lives and the use of their powers, seem to be left out of sight, in our education and preparation for responsible life.

Our youth go forth to the world, and we walk and labor in it, with ours and their mental machinery in the highest condition we see fit to place it; — but it sometimes lacks a balance wheel, and may move irregularly; it may run too fast, and get out of order; it may be applied to unfitting purposes, and thereby be broken; it may be over-tasked or over-worked — thence mental disturbance in a greater or less degree may appear, and derangement may sometimes ensue and perhaps insanity be established.

Diseases of the mind must then come upon us, and they will return again and again so long as education is thus imperfect, and whenever and wherever men's habits and customs, their plans of life and their self-management are not in accordance with their powers and the condition of their being.

SOME CAUSES OF INSANITY INCREASE WITH CIVILIZATION.

It is a melancholy consideration, that some of these causes increase in extent and powers with the elevation and the growth of society, and perhaps insanity from these sources may increase faster in this country than the numbers of the people.

Within forty years previous to 1850, the population of Massachusetts increased one hundred and ten per cent. And that of the United States two hundred and twenty per cent.

Yet the number of persons, male and female, in our State and Nation, who, with or without previous training or powers duly developed, task their minds and their brains to their utmost, have increased in a much greater ratio.

The numbers of those who are, or who strive to be, highly educated, — who engage in new studies, — who undertake to be philosophers, chemists, mathematicians, phrenologists, botanists, or adepts in some other science — who

endeavor to fathom the mysteries of theology, who explore the range of history, literature, or criticism—who take deep interest in new principles and doctrines, who engage in partisan movements—who bear the burdens of new enterprises, who strive to gain new positions, or struggle to sustain themselves there when once attained,—the numbers of those who change from quiet and undisturbing to active and anxious modes of life, of those who cease the labor of their hands and betake themselves to the labor of their brains, the numbers of the farmers who become merchants, of the mechanics who become manufacturers, of those who leave any sure occupation to become speculators, or engage in hazardous schemes, and, with their unaccustomed minds, rush into untried fields of enterprise,—the numbers of those who are raised to high and responsible conditions from low and irresponsible ones,—of those who are subject to reverses and disappointments, of those who are exposed to accidents and injuries from machinery, from travel, from chemical action, and of those whose health suffers from excessive and irregular mental exertion, or from the artificial and unnatural customs of fashionable life:—the numbers of these—and of those among them, who impair, and who are liable to lose their mental health, have increased, in a much greater ratio, than the population of either the State or Nation.

DUTY OF SOCIETY TO CARE FOR THE INSANE.

Seeing, then, that society establishes, encourages or permits these customs, out of which mental disorder may and frequently does arise, and is willing to enjoy and profit by them, and, moreover, seeing that it raises no beacons to warn the careless and the indiscreet, and builds no safeguards to protect the weak and the unfortunate from impairing or losing their minds through them,—it would seem to be incumbent upon the body politic, as far as possible, to remedy that evil, whenever and wherever it may present itself. Besides the general obligation resting upon every civilized State to sustain and protect all its weaker or suffering members who cannot do these for themselves, it is then the especial duty of the Commonwealth to heal the wounds it inflicts or allows to be inflicted, and to provide the means of curing and protecting its insane.

NUMBER AND CONDITION OF THE INSANE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The result of the whole survey shows, that

there were 2632 insane persons in and belonging to the State of Massachusetts in 1854.

That 1713 of them were, in the opinion of the physicians, fit subjects for Hospital care, either because their diseases were of recent origin and they could be restored by proper means, or because they were excitable or violent and should have the protection and the restraints of a Hospital for their own security and for that of the community.

One thousand and fifty-nine of these were in the Hospitals of this State and ninety-one in the Hospitals of other States. Besides these, there were one hundred and sixty-seven in the prisons and in the receptacles connected with them, and forty in the State Alms Houses.

The State Hospitals at Worcester and Taunton had six hundred and twenty patients with accommodations for only five hundred and seventy-seven, and the City Hospital of Boston had two hundred and sixty-seven with room for only two hundred. The McLean Asylum with accommodations for two hundred was full, but forty-seven of the patients belonged to other States.*

Six hundred and ten of those insane persons who were at their homes, were stated, by the physicians and others, that reported them, to be proper subjects for hospital treatment or care, for their own or the public good.

Two hundred and five of these were supposed to be curable, if the suitable means should be applied, and the others were troublesome or dangerous, and therefore needed the restraints and influence of some institution to save them from harm, and the community from disturbance.

This great and fearful amount of insanity thus brought to light, by this Commission, was surprising to most people, but it was not unexpected to those who were familiar with the subject.

* The following shows the accommodations in the several Hospitals, and the number of patients in them in 1854.

Hospitals.	Accommodations for Patients.	Number of Patients.
Worcester,	327†	364
Taunton,	250	256
McLean,	200	200
Boston,	200	267
Private,	35	19

† In 1855, the Trustees of the Hospital at Worcester converted some of the lodging rooms in each of the wards into day-rooms, and thereby diminished the capacity of the Institution, so that it can now properly contain only two hundred and eighty seven patients, and at this moment, July 3d, 1856, it has seventy-five more than it has room for.

The Trustees of the Hospital at Taunton have increased its capacity by the removal of the strong rooms and substituting others in their place.

Besides these six hundred and ten insane persons at their homes, whose cases presented a claim for aid, there were others in the Hospitals at Worcester and Boston, and in the receptacles and prisons, who needed more or better accommodations than they could there enjoy. And those who had the charge of these institutions complained that the pressure of their crowded inmates, or the unsuitableness of their establishment, rendered it impossible for them to give to their patients the healing and the soothing influences which are needed in the management of mental diseases.

THE LEGISLATURE MADE FARTHER PROVISION FOR THE INSANE.

As soon as these facts were laid before the Legislature in 1855, that body took the matter into careful and serious consideration, and after cautious investigation, they resolved, without a single dissenting voice or vote, to make farther provision for the cure or the protection of these suffering insane, and for that purpose to build this Hospital.

On former occasions like this, the Government has waited until the cry for relief, loud and earnest and long continued, had gone forth from the insane or their friends. Before the Hospital at Taunton was built, the State waited until five hundred and sixty-eight patients had accumulated in the three hundred and twenty-seven rooms then in the Institution at Worcester, and others were waiting at their homes, because there was no space for them to enter.

Before the Hospital was built at Worcester, the prisons in the counties held many maniacs, and the poor-houses were frequently provided with strong rooms and cages to confine their lunatics. Except the McLean Asylum at Charlestown, then a small but excellent institution, there was no means of healing offered in the State. Beside the McLean Asylum there were no places of refuge for these sufferers, but these jails and cages if they were violent, — and none at all, if they were mild and harmless.

The philanthropist saw this with pain, and the political economist with dissatisfaction. There was needless suffering and no hope of relief. There was a heavy cost and no probable end but with life. However long the lunatic might lie in his prison or his cage, he was no nearer his restoration, and there was no escape from his malady or his prison-house, except through the gate of death.

In both cases the Government waited as long

as the suffering could be borne or the relief be postponed, until the cry increased to a clamor, and the clamor to a irresistible demand for Hospital accommodations.

The same delay has been manifested in other States, and their Governments too have postponed action, until humanity became clamorous and would wait no longer.

The Legislature of Massachusetts in 1855 wisely took counsel of the past they saw that there was then a need of more Hospitals, and they knew that this need went not backward. It would be useless to postpone the work, in expectation that this necessity would cease or diminish, for such always had increased both here and elsewhere, and this too must grow greater year after year.*

They therefore determined to erect this Hospital at the earliest moment.

They carefully counted the cost, and freely gave the means. They appropriated all that was asked by the friends of the measure, —

* There are no positive records, which can be used to demonstrate to a mathematical certainty, the increase or the decrease of insanity in this or in any other State or country. No government has made two complete and reliable enumerations of the lunatics among the people, at two different periods, which could be used as the basis of comparison.

Most national enumerations of this class of persons, carry evidence of imperfectness on their very face and are therefore unreliable.

The census of the United States gave 16,804 insane and idiots in 1840, and 31,397 in 1850. The former is known to be inaccurate in many of its details, and the latter is probably incomplete, and no reliance can be placed on the comparison of these two numbers.

Both the English and the French statements are manifestly imperfect. In the former some important classes of the insane were omitted, and in the latter the numbers are loosely given, and many of them plainly conjectural.

Nevertheless all the enumerations of the insane, for whatever purpose, and all the statements and complaints respecting their numbers both in Europe and in America, and to show that more and more of this class of sufferers appear to the public from time to time, and that this increase more than keeps pace with the population. A part of this apparent increase of the numbers of the insane is unquestionably due to the increase of attention to their maladies, and a part to the progress of the disease, from the influence of existing causes.

The records of Hospitals devoted to the care of these patients both here and elsewhere show a great increase of the demand for their accommodations.

Forty years ago, there was but one Hospital in the United States devoted exclusively to this purpose. In 1820, there were three; 1830, eight; in 1840, fourteen; in 1845, twenty; in 1850, twenty-seven; and in 1855, thirty-seven, all in active operation, beside four others in the course of preparation.

The records and the reports of all these thirty-seven institutions have been examined, excepting those of Georgia from the beginning, Louisiana for 1854 and 1855, and California for 1855. It should be stated also, that the pauper Hospital of New York did not publish the number of patients received, during the years 1834 to 1846, inclusive.

Disregarding the omission at New York, and assuming that the other two hospitals, not including that of Georgia, admitted as many patients in those years, of which no report is received, as they did in their last previously reported years, the following will show the progress of the demand for Hospital accommodations within the last twenty-six years in the United States.

all that it was supposed would be needed, for the land and the house. The grant was free as well as generous; there was no restriction, except that the institution should be in one of the four western counties, and it should be used for the good of the insane.

CHARACTER OF THE NEW HOSPITAL.

The Governor immediately appointed a Board of Commissioners required by the law, and they were authorized and directed to select a place and build the Hospital.

These Commissioners have selected a site in Northampton, which for healthfulness of location, beauty of prospect, and convenience of access, is equal to any other. It is endowed with every facility needed for its purpose, and must ever gratify the friends of the insane.

The Commissioners have adopted a plan that includes all the modern improvements, and will present to the world and the insane the best model of such an establishment which the intelligence and the benevolence of the present and past ages have produced.

Without doubt, a Hospital might be built for less cost than they will build this. But that would not be such as the present time demands nor such as is wanted here. The Commissioners, with that far-reaching economy that governs every wise man or mechanic in the conduct of the farm or workshop, selected the best plan, because that will accomplish its object the most easily and effectually, and because the officers can heal more of their patients, and in a shorter period of time in such a house. There is then economy in such a selection, because it costs less for the daily management; the duration of disease, and of residence in the establishment will be shorter, and a greater number will be restored or made comfortable in such a Hospital as this is intended to be, than one less suited to its purpose.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Patients admitted.</i>	<i>Years.</i>	<i>Patients admitted.</i>
1830	332	1843	1634
1831	379	1844	1725
1832	481	1845	2004
1833	639	1846	2107
1834	456	1847	2723
1835	461	1848	3070
1836	545	1849	3082
1837	628	1850	3144
1838	697	1851	3491
1839	949	1852	3736
1840	999	1853	4151
1841	1145	1854	4243
1842	1105	1855	4383

The above does not include those who are known to be removed from one Hospital to another, as those from Worcester to Taunton, in 1854.

The number of patients under care, and the average numbers during these years, show a similar progress.

But the restoration of any under the favoring influences of a good Hospital, who might otherwise have remained in permanent lunacy, the restoration of even a few to life and responsibility and usefulness, to the enjoyment and affections of home and friends, far outweighs all considerations of money, and demands that the Commissioners should give, as they are now giving you, the best institution the intelligence of the world has yet devised.

INSANITY WILL APPEAR, FROM AGE TO AGE.

So far as the record of man goes backward, we know that insanity has been in the world, and it is now found in every nation. It is more prevalent in the civilized than in the savage state. It is supposed to be more frequent in the highly than in the lesser cultivated nations — and we have it here as much as, and perhaps more than, most other countries.

You have had it and you have it now among you. The late survey shows how abundantly it prevails here, and how much you need the means of relief.*

Judging by the past, we cannot hope for a better condition in the future in this matter, unless the life and condition of mankind shall be changed.

So far as the causes of mental maladies have been ascertained, they will not cease with the present year nor with the present generation. They belong to man and to society as now constituted, and they will continue to act as they have acted, and the coming years do not seem to promise any less of their influence.

Until we and you shall have studied out all these sources of mental disorder, and laid bare even its hidden fountains, and until we shall conform all our social and individual lives, our plans and our habits, our thoughts and our affections to the perfect law of health, we shall still be subject to this malady. If there is no change in the causes, there will be none in the results, and the next year will furnish as many new cases of insanity, in proportion to the population, as the last year, and the next generation will be as fruitful of this disease as that which now lives on the earth.

* The following facts were received by the Commission on Insanity, from the Physicians and others, who were acquainted with the condition of the Insane and Idiots in the four western counties in 1854.

<i>Counties.</i>	<i>Insane.</i>	<i>Fit subjects for a Hospital.</i>	<i>Violent Idiots.</i>	<i>Total subjects for a Hospital.</i>
Berkshire	119	69	9	78
Franklin,	84	44	1	45
Hampden,	94	59	1	60
Hampshire,	105	41	4	45
	402	213	15	228

INSANITY CURABLE IN ITS EARLY STAGES.

If insane persons are allowed to enjoy the means of healing in the early stages of their disorder, within one year after it appears, about 75 to 90 per cent. can be restored to health.

But in this class of maladies, time makes rapid havoc, and diminishes the chances of cure. If the means of healing are not tried within the first year, the ratio of cures is reduced perhaps a half in the second, and still more in the third year, and when five years of neglect shall have elapsed, the hope of restoration is reduced to a mere accident, which no human skill can promise to accomplish.

There are then the strongest motives that humanity and even economy can offer for the early and the proper care of the insane. Now, in the beginning of their disorder is their time to be restored, and the human mind to be saved from destruction; and with these grounds of hope, if the means are used, and with the probable loss and suffering if the time of healing is permitted to pass unimproved, it is natural and reasonable to suppose that none would be neglected, none would be left to sink into permanent insanity, none allowed to remain their life-long years in the gloomy darkness or the painful excitements of mental derangement.

INSANITY, LIKE THE COMMON EVILS OF LIFE, SHOULD BE MET AND REMOVED PROMPTLY.

Most men manage the common affairs of life with sufficient wisdom. They feel it incumbent on them to repair the damage which time or accidents cause in the material things which they use or possess. They mend the breaches in their houses, shops, and other buildings, and in their fences; they clear their pathways of obstructions, and their fields of weeds. They keep their machines and their implements, their carriages and even their meanest vehicles in good order. Common prudence dictates this, and public opinion demands it. And they feel a reproach of conscience, and a blot on their good name if they neglect it. All this is well done, but there are other things of still greater importance to our comfort and happiness and our well-being on earth, that should not be left undone.

The human body, where man's spirit dwells, the human brain, the especial seat of the intellect, is liable to many causes of injury, and may need to be watched and repaired, and saved from abiding loss. As this is of more value than many houses, and of more worth

than all the material things we use, there is so much more reason for watching for its least injury or decay, and saving it from greater suffering.

If we show such diligence in regard to the broken dwelling or implement, how much more readily should we repair the broken intellect, and relieve our friends from the destroying spirit that may have come upon them!

If we feel it a good ground of reproach, when the breach in our dwellings or the rust on our tools is allowed to increase so far that reparation is impossible, what shall be said of those who suffer the minds of their own relations or neighbors to waste away, until no human art or effort can restore them!

If your houses, your fields, your fences, your machinery, even your vehicles are worthy of your vigilant watchfulness and your prompt interference to stay the progress of any destructive influence upon them, at whatever cost within their value, how great should be your vigilance to detect and prevent the growth of any blight or disease upon the brain of your parent or child, or brother or friend? And how much more energetic and vigorous should be your exertions to save their precious minds and affections from present death!

If the fallen house, the broken fence, the rusty implement, the weedy field are monuments of the improvidence of the proprietor or occupant, how much more should neglected and permanent insanity be deemed a monument of the faithlessness or inhumanity of those who should have provided the means of healing!

The advantage of attending to evils early, when they are comparatively light and easily removed, has become a proverb, which all wise men intend to put in practice, in their common affairs. The same economical view may be applied to the care of the insane. It costs comparatively little to cure them; but the cost of supporting them through a life of disease is immense.*

* The average time required for recovery of all the patients who were restored, was in the Worcester Hospital, five months and three days, and in the McLean Asylum, five months and two days. These include the old as well as the new cases. If all these patients had been placed under proper care early, within one or two months of the attack, the average residence, or period necessary for cure, would have been less.

The average length of insane life of persons incurably deranged, is—

		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
If attacked at 20 years of age,		21.31 years,	28 66 years.
" 30 "	"	20.64 "	26.33 "
" 40 "	"	17.65 "	21.53 "
" 50 "	"	13.93 "	17.67 "
" 60 "	"	11.91 "	12.51 "
" 70 "	"	9.15 "	8.87 "

As a matter of mere economy, the difference is very largely in favor of curing the insane.

Add to this the difference between the suffering and the anguish of friends, the harrowing anxiety and the ceaseless care on account of their relatives when insane, and the full enjoyment and sympathy, the love and encouragement which these give when in health, and there is no measure to the motives that demand that the lunatic shall be allowed to enjoy the earliest and the best opportunities of being restored.

SOME CAUSES OF INSANITY MAY BE ASCERTAINED AND PREVENTED.

It is thus seen that much may be expected of this Hospital, in restoring diseased minds to health, but this is not all. If this Institution stop here—if its officers do nothing more than remove evils that may have been created, and only heal such as are sent to them; if they teach no lesson of warning, and the people receive no instruction from them, if none of the causes of insanity be searched out, and the world be put on its guard against none of the dangerous places and pit-falls into which their brethren may have fallen, and the errors that may have overcome the weak and susceptible among them, if the causes of these disorders be still allowed to prevail and overpower men's brains with undiminished energy, and if insanity be reproduced from year to year, and one set of patients be healed and restored to their friends, only to make room for another set who shall have fallen under the same destructive influences,—if these are to be the successive events of the coming years and the coming ages, then this Hospital will not have fulfilled its whole mission, or the people will not have learned and practised their whole lesson.

It is not to be denied, that many cases of insanity are as yet traceable to no assignable sources. Some are probably due to many causes—a little waste of life here—a little misapplication of force there—some error in self-management—some excess—some neglect—some undue indulgence—some external injury—all these put together may break down one's mental health, as a complication of misfortunes and indiscretions break down one's estate, and insanity is the consequence in the one case, as failure of commercial position is in the other. It is sometimes difficult to discriminate between the causes and the consequences of mental disturbance; not unfrequently certain eccentricities or peculiarities of conduct are suddenly manifested and supposed to be the causes of the malady, whereas, they may be the consequences of the disorder of the

functions of the brain,—merely a part of the phenomena of the disease itself. Yet, notwithstanding these difficult and unfathomable cases, many can unquestionably be traced to their origin, and their causes pointed out, and the world be put on their guard against them. Some, perhaps many of these causes are within the control of man; they can and will be prevented, if the world avail themselves of the warning.

Something has been already done in this work, but there is no reason to suppose that this philosophy has reached its uttermost bound, or that man's wisdom can search no farther and find no more causes of mental disorder secretly working in the heart of society, or openly rioting among mankind.

It is a part of the work of this, and of all similar institutions which are entrusted with the management of these terrible maladies, to search more and deeper into the field where they are found, to endeavor to find the hidden springs whence they flow, to see where they are, how they operate, and what hold they have upon the people, and then, from time to time, to lift the voice of warning, and show the world how they may escape some of the dangers that beset their mental constitution.

Dives prayed that Lazarus might go up from the dead and warn his brethren of the dangers which had ensnared and destroyed him; but no such messenger was allowed, because they already had Moses and the Prophets to teach them. This boon is not denied to you. You have not only the teachings of the wise and faithful men of science, who have examined and will continue to examine the diseases of the mind and their causes; but your brethren have arisen, and will continue to arise from their mental death to point out to you the way in which they were misled, and warn you to save yourselves from the customs and habits, the errors and indulgences which proved fatal to their intellectual and spiritual health.

If, then, these teachers faithfully study and preach, and if you and your children, and your children's children will hear and obey, you and they, from time to time, may close some of the fountains and stay the progress of the desolating evil more and more, from generation to generation, insanity may be gradually diminished, and, in the course of ages, as man shall become more and more perfect in his obedience to God, and in his faithfulness to the conditions of his being on earth, this class of maladies may be perhaps rarely or never known among men.

ANCIENT PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

The following cases are extracted from the third book of epidemics, by Hippocrates. Contrast his critical observations on cases with modern reports of practice, and then determine how much the profession has really advanced in this age of wisdom.

In Thasus, the son of Parion, who lived above the Temple of Diana, was seized with an acute fever, which at first was continual, burning, and attended with thirst. He was from the beginning comatose, and again watchful. His belly loose. His urine thin. The sixth day oily urine, with ramblings. The seventh, worse in all respects; no sleep; the urine as before; lightheadedness, together with bilious, fat, stools. The eighth, he bled a little at the nose; vomited æruginous stuff in a small quantity; and slept a little. The ninth, no alteration. The tenth, a remission of all the symptoms. The eleventh, a sweat, but not all over. He grew cold all over, and in a short time warm again. The twelfth, an acute fever; many bilious, thin stools; a thin cloud in the urine; and a rambling head. The seventeenth, great uneasiness, having had no sleep, but his fever did not increase. The twentieth, a sweat all over; no sleep; bilious stools; an aversion to food; and a coma. The twenty-fourth, a relapse. The thirty-fourth, no fever; the body not bound; but he grew hot again. The fortieth, no fever; the body bound, but not long; an aversion to food; a gentle fever again, but in the erratic way continually, sometimes present, sometimes not; for, if it left him, or if he was easier, it returned again. What he eat was of the worst kind, and in a great quantity. After the return he slept badly, and was lightheaded. The urine was then thick, but turbid and bad. The body sometimes bound, sometimes lax. He was also continually feverish, had many thin stools, and the *hundred and twentieth day* he died.

This patient's belly was constantly, from the first day, either lax with many bilious liquid stools, or bound with hot and undigested matter. The urine bad all along; and a coma for the most part, with pains, watchings, loathing of food, and a burning fever continually.

In Thasus, the woman that lived by the cold Spring, after being delivered of a daughter, and not cleansed, was taken with an acute fever the third day, and a chilliness. But, long before she was brought to bed, she had been laid up with a fever, and aversion to food.

After the shivering, the fever became continual, and acute, attended with a sense of horror or chilliness. The eighth day and the following she was lightheaded, but came to herself again presently, and had many thin, watery, bilious stools, without thirst. The eleventh, she came to herself again, but was inclined to a stupidity; made a great deal of thin and black urine; and kept awake. The twentieth, was a little cold outwardly, and warm again presently; rambled a little and kept awake. Her stools as before; and her urine watery, and plentiful. The twenty-seventh, neither fever nor stool, but not long after a violent pain of the right hip that lasted long. She grew feverish again, and made watery urine. The fortieth, the hip was a little easier; but she had a continual cough, and very humid; no stool; a dislike to food; and the urine as before. The fever not entirely off, and the paroxysms in the erratic way, sometimes present, sometimes not. The sixtieth, the cough ceased without any sign; no concoction appearing in what was spit, nor any separation of what is usual, but the right jaw was convulsed. She was also comatose, and lightheaded again, but came to herself presently. Her aversion to food still continued; the jaw came to itself; the stools were a little bilious; the fever increased not without chilliness; and the days following she lost her speech, recovered herself again, spoke, and died the eightieth.

This patient's urine was all along black, thin, and watery. A coma came on, with fasting, despondency, watchings, anger, impatience, and melancholy.

In Thasus, Pythion, who lived above the Temple of Hercules, after labor, and weariness, and careless eating, was taken with a great shivering, and an acute fever. His tongue was dry, thirsty, bilious. No sleep. His urine blackish, with a thin cloud above, and no sediment. The second day about noon his extremities were cold, especially his hands and head. He lost his voice, and could not speak; was short-breathed; in a little time grew warm; was thirsty; had a quiet night; and sweated a little about the head. The third, a quiet day. In the evening, about sunset, he grew a little cold; had a very restless night and no sleep; and voided little hard pellets. The fourth, in the morning early, he grew easy again, but about noon worse in all respects. He was also cold; lost his voice and speech too; was worse and worse; in time grew warm again; made black urine, with a

little floating cloud; had a quiet night, and slept. The fifth, he seemed to be easier, but complained of a weight in the belly with pain; was thirsty; and had an uneasy night. The sixth, in the morning early, he was quiet, but about sunset his pains increased, and he was worse, but, after a good discharge in the evening from a glyster, slept in the night. The seventh, he was qualmish in the day, and a little impatient; made oily urine; at night was much out of order, rambled, and got no sleep. The eighth, slept a little betimes in the morning, but presently grew cold, lost his speech, and breathed but faintly and less and less. In the evening, was hot again and delirious; but as the day advanced, was a little easier. His stools simple, small, and bilious. The ninth, was comatose, and qualmish, when he was raised, but not very thirsty. About sunset was very restless, rambled, and had a bad night. The tenth, in the morning early was speechless, very cold, very feverish, sweated much, and died.

His pains were upon equal days.

Another had a frenzy and was laid up the fifth day, and vomited much green thin matter; was feverish and chilly; sweated much and continually all over; and had a weight and pain in the head and neck. He had also thin urine, with little clouds scattered up and down, that subsided not; thundering stools; rambled much; and got no sleep. The second day betimes in the morning he lost his speech; was very feverish; sweated, but did not lose his fever; trembled all over; and at night was convulsed. The third, was worse in all respects. The fourth, died.

In Larissa, one who was bald was taken suddenly with a pain in his right thigh, and nothing that was applied to it did him any good. The first day an acute and burning fever, which abated a little, but the pain still continued. The second, the pain of the thigh abated, but the fever increased. He was also somewhat impatient, without sleep, cold in his extreme parts, and made a great deal of water, but not good. The third, the pain of the thigh ceased, but he grew lightheaded upon it, greatly disordered, and full of tossing. The fourth, about noon, he died in a very acute manner.

In Abdera, Pericles was taken with an acute, continual, fever and pain. A great thirst succeeded, and a qualmishness; nor could he contain what he drank. He was also somewhat large-spleened, and heavy-headed. The first day, blood came from his left nostril; the fever raged much; and his

urine was turbid, thin, copious, without a sediment after standing. The second, worse in all respects, but the urine was thick indeed, and rather subsided; and with respect to his qualmishness he was easier, and slept. The third, the fever abated. The urine was increased, digested, and had a great sediment. The night was pleasant. The fourth day about noon, a great hot sweat all over. The fever was carried off by it, and returned not again.

In Abdera, a virgin, who lived upon the Holy Way, was seized with a burning fever, thirst, and watchfulness. Her menses came down then for the first time. The sixth day she was very sick at the stomach, high-colored, shivering a little, and restless. The seventh, no alteration. The urine thin indeed, but well-colored; the belly quite easy. The eighth, she was deaf, very feverish, watchful, qualmish, shivering a little, but yet in her senses, and made the same urine. The ninth, and the following days, no alteration. The deafness remained. The fourteenth, the mind was disordered, and the fever abated. The seventeenth, she bled much at the nose; the deafness abated a little; but the following days she was qualmish, deaf, and light-headed. The twentieth, a pain in her feet came on; her deafness and delirium went off; she bled a little at the nose, sweated, and lost her fever. The twenty-fourth, she relapsed, and was deaf again; the pain in her feet remained, and she grew delirious. The twenty-seventh, sweated much, and lost her fever and deafness; the pain in her feet remained a little, but in other respects the crisis was perfect.

In Abdera, Anaxion, who lived by the Thracian Gates, was seized with an acute fever. His right side was continually in pain, attended with a dry cough, that brought nothing up the first days. A thirst came on, with a want of sleep, and urine that was well-colored, much, and thin. The sixth day he was lightheaded, and received no benefit from warm applications. The seventh, was very uneasy. The fever increased, and the pains abated not. The cough was very troublesome, and a difficulty of breathing came on. The eighth, he was blooded in the arm, and that plentifully, as he ought. The pains abated, but the dry cough still continued. The eleventh, the fever abated; he sweated a little about the head; coughed still; and brought away from the lungs something more humid. The seventeenth, he began to spit a little concocted matter, and was relieved; but was thirsty, and the lungs were not well cleansed. The twentieth, he

sweated, lost his fever, and after the crisis was easier. The twenty-seventh, the fever returned; and much digested matter came away by coughing. The urine had a large white sediment; the thirst went off, and sleep came on. The thirty-fourth, he sweated all over, had no fever, and was perfectly freed.

In Abdera, Heropythus was taken with a pain in his head as he was upon his legs, and not long after was forced to lie down. His house was by the upper path. An acute burning fever came on, with a vomiting of much bile at the beginning; a thirst; great uneasiness; and thin black urine, sometimes with, sometimes without, a cloud atop. The night was uneasy; the paroxysms of the fever uncertain; and for the most part out of the common course. About the fourteenth day he grew deaf; the fever increased; the urine as before. The twentieth, and the following days, he was very lightheaded. The fortieth, bled much at the nose, and came more to himself. The deafness remained still, but was less. The fever abated. The following days he bled again often, and a little at a time. About the sixtieth his bleeding stopped; but in the right hip was a violent pain; the fever increased; and not long after pains attacked all the lower parts. It happened too, that the fever was either greater, and the deafness considerable, or that, upon an abatement of these, the pains in the lower parts, about the hip, were stronger. About the eightieth, there was a general remission, but it did not go quite off. The urine was well-colored, and had a good sediment; and the deliriums were abated. About the hundredth, a great discharge of bilious matter downwards, that did not cease presently. These were succeeded by dysenteric complaints and pain; though in other respects he was very easy. In fine, the fever went off, the deafness ceased, and upon the *hundredth* day a perfect crisis happened in this burning fever.

Nicodemus, in Abdera, after venery and drinking, was seized with a violent fever. In the beginning he was qualmish, heart-burnt, thirsty, with a burnt tongue, and thin black urine. The second day the fever increased. He was also chilly; qualmish; got no sleep; vomited bilious yellow stuff; made the same urine as before; had a quiet night, and slept. The third, everything abated, and he was easy; but about sunset he was taken with an uneasiness again, and had a bad night. The fourth, he shivered; was very feverish; in pain all over; made thin urine, with a cloud in it; and

was very delirious. The seventh, easy again. The eighth, all the other complaints abated. The tenth, and the following days, he complained of pains, but not so much as before; and both pains and paroxysms were all along rather upon equal days. The twentieth, white thick urine, that subsided not upon standing; a great sweat; the fever seemingly spent: but about sunset he grew hot again, and had the same pains, with chilliness, thirst, and a little rambling. The twenty-fourth, much white urine, with a good sediment; and a great hot sweat all over, that put an end to the fever, and produced a good crisis.

A peevish, melancholy woman, in Thasus, was taken, after grieving upon some occasion, with watchings, dislike to food, thirst, and great uneasiness, while standing and walking about. She lived near Pylades's, upon the Plain. The first day, as the night came on, she grew fearful, talked much, desponded, and had a little fever. The next morning early, was much convulsed, and, upon the convulsions intermitting, was lightheaded, and talked obscenely. Her pains were many, great, and constant. The second day, no alteration; no sleep; the fever higher. The third, the convulsions ceased, but the coma and delirium remained. She waked again, got up, and could not contain herself; was very lightheaded, and very feverish. The same night she had a plentiful sweat, but not all over; the fever however left her; she slept, came to herself perfectly, and had a crisis. About the third day the urine was black and thin, and the cloud in it, for the most part, round and floating. At the crisis her menses came down plentifully.

In Lariffa, a maid was seized with an acute burning fever, attended with want of sleep, thirst, a fuliginous (or sooty) dry tongue, and urine that was well-colored, but thin. The second day she was uneasy, and got no sleep. The third, had several watery stools, and the following days the like, without fatigue. The fourth, the urine was thin, a little in quantity, with an elevated cloud that subsided not. A delirium at night. The sixth, she bled very freely at the nose; shivered a little; sweated plentifully and hot all over; and the fever came to its crisis. But in the course of the fever, and upon the crisis happening, her menses came down then for the first time, she being a young virgin.

She was all along qualmish, subject to horrors, red in the face, and had a pain in her eyes, with a heaviness in her head. The crisis

happened without a relapse, and her pains upon equal days.

Apollonius, in Abdera, was ill a long time, but not so as to be confined. He was a large-bowelled man, had an old pain about the liver a long while, and was at that time troubled with the jaundice, bloated, and of a whitish complexion. Upon eating beef and drinking intemperately, he was at first seized with a little warmth, and went to bed. But upon using milk plentifully, both goat's and sheep's, boiled and raw, and a bad diet withal, all his complaints were made considerably worse. For his fever was exasperated, and of what he took in, very little to speak of passed through him. His urine was thin and little; his sleep, nothing at all; but a bad kind of inflation, a violent thirst, a coma, a painful elevation of the right flank, a coldishness all about the extremities, a little rambling, with a forgetfulness of what he had said, and at last a strong delirium laid hold of him. About the fourteenth day from the time that he shivered, grew hot, took to his bed, and was mad; he bawled out, was greatly disordered, talked much, and then was silent. After this he grew comatose, and had many bilious, unmixed, crude stools. His urine was black, little, and thin; his uneasiness great; his stools various, sometimes black, little, and thin; at other times fat, crude, and acid; and at last milky to appearance. About the twenty-fourth he was easier; in other respects no alteration, but came a little to himself, (whereas, from the time he laid down, he remembered nothing) and presently after lost himself again. Every thing hurried on for the worse. About the thirtieth, he was very feverish; had many small stools; was delirious; cold in his extremities; and dumb. The thirty-fourth, he died.

This patient, during my attendance, was all along disordered in his belly; his urine thin and black; and he was comatose, watchful, cold in his extremities, and perpetually delirious.

A woman in Cyzicus, who was delivered, with much difficulty, of two daughters, and not well cleansed afterwards, was taken at first with a chilliness and acute fever, attended with a weight and pain of the head and neck. She could get no sleep from the beginning; was silent, sullen, and inflexible. The urine was thin, and without color. She was also thirsty, and for the most part qualmish and uneasy. The belly irregular, sometimes loose, and sometimes bound. The sixth day at night

she was very delirious, and got no sleep. About the eleventh, was mad, and came to herself again. The urine black, thin, and, after a while, oily. The stools many, thin, and turbid. The fourteenth, she was much convulsed; cold in her extreme parts; lost her senses; and had a suppression of urine. The sixteenth, was dumb; and the seventeenth, died.

In Thasus, Dealces's wife, who lived upon the plain, was taken with a chilliness and acute fever, occasioned by sorrow. She was covered up from the beginning, and, without ever speaking to the last, felt about with her hands, plucked off, scratched, and gathered the nap of the clothes; cried, and presently after laughed; got no sleep; had no stool, though the belly was stimulated with something; drank a little at the request of others; made a little thin water; was but moderately feverish to the touch; and cold in her extremities. The ninth, was very delirious, and soon after recovered herself, but was silent. The fourteenth, her breathing was deep and seldom, long and short. The seventeenth, another stimulus was used to the belly; after which what was drank passed through, without any gathering together, or stoppage. She was insensible of every thing; and her skin was distended and dry. The twentieth, she talked much, and again recovered herself, but was afterwards dumb and breathed short. The twenty-first, she died.

This patient's breathing was all along deep and slow. She was insensible of every thing; was always covered up; and either talked much, or was silent to the last.

In Melibæa, a young man, heating himself a long time with drink and venery to excess, was taken with a chilliness, a nauseousness, and want of sleep, but without a thirst. The first day, he had many stools, with a great flux of humors, and the following days many watery ones. The urine was thin, little, and without color. The breathing, seldom, deep, and long. The hypochondres distended, but somewhat soft, and that for a considerable length on both sides. He had also a continual palpitation of the heart to the last; made oily urine; rambled moderately; was composed again and quiet. His skin was dry and distended; his stools many, thin, bilious, and fat. The fourteenth, was worse in all respects; rambled, and raved much. The twentieth, was mad; threw his limbs about; made no water, and scarce kept his drink. The twenty-fourth, died.

THE CONNECTION OF SUPERSTITION WITH DISEASES AND WITH THEIR REMEDIES.

BY T. L. WRIGHT, M. D., PROF. OF THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF IOWA.

Superstition—Originates in the weakness and vices of men—Its comprehensiveness—Its employment as an element of cure in disease—Charms—Amulets—Incantations—Dreams—Prayers—Fascination—Their use not inimical to an idea of advanced medical science—Human sacrifices in times of pestilence—Indicative of a low state of medical advancement.

In all ages of the world, superstitious rites have been instituted to forestall calamity, to arrest impending misfortune, and to deliver from surrounding danger. Sense of weakness has always been prominent in the character of man, notwithstanding his vanity, and arrogance, in times of safety. The utter inability of human power to resist the forces of nature; and of human foresight, to recognize, and provide against malignant influences, operating in surrounding elements to the detriment of the human body—come home to the memory of man with vivid truthfulness, in the midst of suffering, and of sudden danger. A consciousness of unworthiness, then suggests the idea of atonement; of reparation to offended spirits by sacrifices, consisting of valuable and dearly beloved objects—or of lacerated feelings, and of outrages upon the finer sensibilities of human nature—in deprecation of punishment for past failings, and to secure immunity for the future.

Remote as the existence of man, lasting as the duration of his race, boundless as the field of crime, innumerable as the lives of men, infinite as the capacity of the soul—is superstition.

To describe the impress of superstition upon human character, would be to give a detailed biography of every man that ever lived, and trace his influence, silent or otherwise, upon his fellows. Such a description, were it even possible, would be as unnecessary, as it would be extensive. Every soul can mark the power and sway of superstition within itself. True, in modern times, its atrocious effects are not so public, nor so bloody, as in ancient. Men, by meeting upon certain common ground, where they have been driven by the dictates of common safety, for protection against the violence of each other, have agreed upon some general rules, under which any lawful organization of men is protected in its persons and prop-

erty, against the violence of every opposing organization. By tacit agreement, any aggressive faction of men, becomes arraigned before innumerable disinterested ones, and it is bound, by the force of superior numbers, to confine its acts within certain definite limits. Religious persecutions, among others, have, in their more repulsive forms, died away. The Pagan has ceased to destroy, in a great measure, the Christian; the Christian is no longer permitted to torture and murder the infidel, or the heretic, except in the form of regularly declared civilized warfare. The strong arm of the civil law, which is founded upon the selfish principle of individual security, holds happily in check the rage of fanaticism.

The true and only groundwork of all really generous conduct, is the sentiment of *charity* in the human heart; but the uncompromising hatred towards his erring fellow, which blinded superstition, growing out of a bigoted vanity, incident to the heart of man, plants in the human breast, but slowly and unwillingly gives place to its amiable and benign influence. It is, then, idle to attempt to trace the course of any especial system of superstition, or mysterious rites. These vary in every nation and every clime, and in almost every individual.

It is not at all wonderful, considering the nature of disease in the human body—its mysterious and unexpected advent, and its serious consequences to the sick—that it should have always been attributed, in a great measure, to supernatural causes; and that it should have seemed to call for ceremonies of a religious nature; and for the employment of influences of a mystic power. From the earliest period of time, charms, amulets, and incantations, have accompanied the practice of physic. But, in addition to these, it was too often the custom, with certain ancient nations, to resort to the horrid practice of immolating human victims, to appease the wrath of imaginary gods—especially on occasions of the prevalence of general and fatal epidemics.

The first and more innocent of these instruments of superstition—charms, amulets, and incantations—accompanied medical practice in its greatest perfection. As might, upon a superficial investigation, be supposed to be the case, their employment does not imply, necessarily, a deficiency in the power of the remedies, or in the accuracy of the skill of the ancient physicians. The thousand sources of fallacy, in medical proof, are too well understood to require digression. The use of charms or amulets, or other mysterious instruments of immu-

nity, while in dread of disease, should sickness not happen to intervene, would naturally impose upon men a faith in their efficacy. Moreover, it is perfectly plain, that sufficient dread of any especial disease, to occasion a resort to supernatural means of prevention, would also suggest the adoption of all the known and rational measures for preserving health. In process of time, special kinds of ornaments became esteemed, for the possession of certain specific virtues. Most likely, trinkets, and the usual ornaments now worn, chiefly to adorn the person, took their rise in a superstitious opinion of their efficacy as charms. Such are yet worn by all savage and barbarous nations.

But the faith reposed in the efficacy of the magical effects of charms and amulets, did not entirely depend upon chance, for its establishment. Although such instrumentalities were thought to be particularly useful in hæmorrhage and nervous spasms or neuralgic pains—which, in their own nature, are usually self-limited—they undoubtedly did great actual good, in preserving an equanimity of mind, and fearlessness of danger, which are always of great effect in repelling the invasion of disease. Abundant evidences of just such results, from the operation of mysterious charms, or remedies that are perfectly inert, are daily witnessed throughout the civilized world. So common is it, for the functions of the body to be influenced by the emotions of the mind, that, in nervous diseases, or in states of the system where the nerves are peculiarly impressible, it is quite frequently only necessary to fix the expectation of the patient, strongly, upon the supervention of certain symptoms, or functional phenomena, in order to secure their occurrence, without the intervention of medicinal agencies. Yet, such facts do not derogate anything from the actual advancement, or intrinsic worth of medical science in the present day; and they should not be allowed to influence, too readily, conclusions respecting the real condition of the medical art among the ancients. It is true, such influences are generally most usefully employed upon the vulgar or misinformed; but it should never be forgotten that, at least in regard to the art of medicine, most of the world is, and most likely always will be, vulgar and uninformed. It is the nature of man to attribute causes that are imperceptible, to supernatural agencies. It is well known that the natural causes of many serious diseases belong to the imponderable class of elements. The sick insist, very often, upon a tangible illustration of the reasons their illness; failing to receive it, or to under-

stand it, they are ever ready to surrender their faith to every offered remedy of a mysterious nature, as adequate to remove an equally mysterious and occult cause of disease.

The forms and modes of applying the remedies of charms, prayers, and other kindred rites, to the cure of diseases, by the ancients, were as various as were their superstitions, and their individual peculiarities. To enter into a minute detail of a great number of them, would render the topic insipid. The ancient Greeks had a form of divination called *pharmakeia*, "which was usually performed by certain medicated and enchanted compositions of herbs, minerals, etc., which they called *pharmaka*. Some of them caused blindness, madness, and love; others infected by the touch; others spread their venom far off, and operated upon persons at a great distance. There were others, who wore amulets against these—as the herb moly, the laurel, the willow tree, and the jasper stone." (Potter's Greek Ant.) The jasper stone was extensively used, by the ancients, as an amulet against disease, as well as a charm to remove it. Much attention, also, was paid to dreams, by the ancients. Astrology, especially in Chaldea and Egypt, was much practised, and made great impressions upon the practice of physic. It was very often employed in forming a diagnosis of disease, as well as portentive to the result of enterprises. Its rules were frequently applied to the events and contingencies of human life, and to fathoming the mysteries of fate.

The soothing influence of music, was supposed to have great efficacy in healing diseases, and in chasing away the spirits of melancholy. Its aid was very often employed among the other innocent adjuvants of healing disease, by the practitioners of antiquity. *Fascination*—(or, probably, as understood by the moderns, electricity and magnetism)—was employed, in ancient times, as a preventive and cure of disease, as well as for malignant purposes; and many were the rites and ceremonies by which the *spell* was dissipated. From phenomena common and natural enough, but inexplicable, absurd conclusions, and ridiculous customs, very often spring into existence. It was customary to eat the bones of serpents, as well as to mix them as ingredients, in enchanted combinations, for the purpose of inspiring love—a custom which probably arose from an observation of the power of fascination possessed by that reptile. But a farther pursuit of details upon the subject of the employment of such innocent plans and customs, by the ancients, to

assist in the restoration of the sick to health, however interesting in the abstract, will be useless here, as the subject is fully treated of in many different works. To these, the curious may be referred, for all such illustrations and facts, as do not necessarily connect themselves with the lines marked out to be followed in the present inquiry into the condition of ancient medicine.

The bloody and inhuman practice of some nations, of sacrificing human victims, in times of plague, indicates a degree of cruel superstition, incompatible with the refinement and enlightenment, which a successful pursuit of the medical art, always implies in a nation. Where medical skill has really existed, it has always been consulted, and its directions implicitly relied upon, in preference to resorting to so horrible a practice as that of immolating human bodies. It was no love of cruelty—no extraordinary feeling of inhumanity—that prompted people to destroy their children, and states to sacrifice the lives of their best citizens, on occasions of universal disease. The high honors and rewards which successful medical skill always commanded, sufficiently attest the willingness of the ancients to avoid so terrible an offering, and to rely upon more happy means of deliverance. Accordingly, the prevalence of such a custom in a nation, as propitiatory to malignant gods, was always accompanied by the existence of darkness, and doubt, and uncertainty in medical practice. Whatever may have been the might and skill of a nation—in law, in politics and war—the prevalence of such a practice, too surely betrays its ignorance and helplessness in the face of disease, and its terror at the stealthy approach of clammy death.

Vegetable Life.—Plants are seldom motionless. The wind wafts the seed of the dandelion. The waves bear the nut of the cocoa palm. Man has carried the apple and the pear, the apricot and the peach, from all the world, and they have become so thoroughly cosmopolite that the land of their birth is unknown. Some plants would almost seem to attach themselves to particular races. The common plantain is called by the North American Indians "The white man's footstep." Currents of air carry seeds and the eggs of insects and infusoria. To settle this formerly disputed question, a German philosopher, Unger, placed several plates of glass, carefully cleaned, between the almost airtight double

sashes with which he protected his study against the rigors of a fierce northern climate. Six months later he took them out, and examined the dust that had fallen on them through imperceptible cracks and crevices with a microscope. The result was, that he discovered in the apparently inorganic dust the pollen of eight distinct plants, the seeds of eleven varieties of fungus, the eggs of four higher infusoria, and living individuals of at least one genus!

CUTCH, INDIA.

[NOTES BY J. W. WINCHESTER, ASSISTANT SURGEON IN THE CAVALRY.]

Cutch is included in that great sandy zone, which extends from Africa to Tartary, and has, like the other countries of this belt, a flat, undulating surface and sandy soil, occasionally broken in upon by ridges of rocky hills, with abundant saline crystallization on its surface, and with, in the summer months, hot and parching winds. In all the elevated portions of Cutch, angular masses of sandstone are projected from below, and small fragments of these often cover many square miles.

Except near the towns or villages, there is no cultivation, and it is only on the banks of the tanks in the neighborhood of these, that trees of any size are to be found.*

The inhabitants of Cutch are Rajpoots or their descendants. Naturally, they are hardy, but many of them injure their constitutions by giving way to all kinds of debauchery,—such as opium-eating and smoking,—that they become prematurely old, and even in their youth lose their native vigor of body, and so dull their intellects by opium and tobacco, that more than the gratification of the present moment is a matter of indifference. The sailors of Cutch are opposed to the landmen: they are hardy, brave, and expert seamen, they steer fearlessly to the opposite shores of Africa, and carry on an extensive trade with Zanguebar, the Gulfs of Persia and Arabia. The banians, who are very numerous, carry on extensive mercantile transactions, with almost every part of India, and form the most industrious class of the community. The natives of Cutch possess very considerable ingenuity as workmen, and have acquired a just fame as

* The large trees are chiefly the tamarind tree, the ficus religiosa, the peepul tree, and the ficus Indica (Banyan tree), and the melia azideralta or neem tree.

workers of the various metals, and as carpenters and masons. The language of Cutch is written, but the Guzerattee uniformly employed. Deformity is extremely rare, as diseases, ague, and rheumatism obtain most, throughout the whole province. I am not aware that small pox has ever attained to any alarming extent. Few possess traces of this disease, and those who do, have the marks but slightly imprinted on their bodies. The people are careful of their diet and their persons, and few diseases have their origin in an inattention to either. The native practitioners adopt means of curing diseases similar to those used in other parts of India. There is no medicine in use among them, or system of treatment, or mode of operation, which merits notice here. The sick, but generally those with incurable diseases, readily and gratefully avail themselves of European assistance.

A race of male *prostitutes* exists in Cutch, who are allowed to possess lands granted them in former times, and to continue to tax on certain days of the year the inhabitants—a privilege they generally cause compliance with, by loading those who refuse their demands with abuse in the public streets. They have a part of the city of Bhooj allotted to them, and many of them have got considerable wealth by keeping up establishments for female prostitution. They dress after the fashion of the Musselman woman; a scanty beard and half-softened masculine features are the only attributes they possess of the male sex. Children, destined to this state, have at an early age all hopes of virility destroyed, by a process similar to that employed on the young of domestic animals—crushing of the testes; and, when about the age of twelve, undergo another operation, which completely deprives them of every vestige of humanity.

FEVER.—From the 1st of July to the end of December, 1836, in the 11th regiment of native infantry, 659 cases of fever were treated, of which six only assumed the remittent type, and four cases proved fatal. The form of the fever assumed was commonly quotidian intermittent, rarely tertian, and seldom or ever quartan. Remittent fever is extremely rare, and when it does happen, its exacerbations are so ill marked, that the fever is more of a continued than remittent character, and is usually accompanied with functional derangement, which is no sooner corrected than the fever leaves the patient, or, what is more common, assumes the intermittent form.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[Communicated for The Medical World.]

PNEUMONIA.

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

BY H. L. H. HOFFENDAHL, M. D.

By Dr. Sigfried Kapper, of Dobriz, near Prague, from the *Zeitschrift für Hom. Klinik*

Homœopathic literature has no reason to complain of a deficiency in its records of diseases of the respiratory organs, since reports of diseases belonging to this class have always occupied a prominent place in Homœopathic journals. But although this is satisfactory to those already convinced, and encouraging for those still in doubt as to the efficacy of Homœopathic therapeutics; still it cannot be denied, that in most of the treatises formerly published, there is a want of that scientific certainty, and that unquestionable power of conviction, which is required by all who recognize the importance of pure science and faithful investigation. It must be allowed that the greater part of this literature belongs to a period, now happily passed by, when medical science did not possess that firm basis of rigorous inquiry, which at the present day has given to diagnosis so high a degree of positive certainty. In the time of Hahnemann "a precise picture of the symptoms" of a disease was considered more important than a systematic diagnosis. This was an error which has made much of the Homœopathic literature of the past unreliable, if not entirely useless, for the practitioners of the present day.

Much has been done, in recent times, partly to correct old errors, and partly to make the great advances of modern natural science useful to Homœopathic medicine. The importance of a scientific diagnosis is now fully recognized, and an individualization of distinct forms of disease, according to the teachings of natural science, has taken the place of a superficial searching after symptoms.

Various works have appeared in Vienna, Leipsic, Dresden, and other places, of an entirely scientific and objective character, tending to the further development of the Homœopathic doctrine in this direction. Among modern treatises on inflammatory diseases of the lungs, I would specify the excellent contributions of Watzke, Wurmb, Fleischmann, of the Vienna school; Clotar Müller, of Leipsic, and Nusser of Augsburg. The works of these vigorous advocates of Homœopathic science pre-

sent a marked contrast to what was formerly written. They are based entirely on the truths of objective diagnosis, as well as on unbiased and judicious investigation, and they are therefore not only of undoubted literary merit, but also of unquestionable practical value.

But observations on this subject cannot yet be considered as completed, since investigation and experiment repeated again and again, are peculiarly essential to the development of the Homœopathic theory. Although new truths may not always be discovered in this way, still every new confirmation, in going over old ground, of facts already known, only adds to the firmness of the original structure. These considerations have induced me to contribute the following paper, in which the danger of appearing tedious has not deterred me from going into any particulars which were likely to be of use either in actual practice, or as a basis for some more extensive therapeutic work.

The region in which I am engaged in practice offers excellent opportunities for the study of the course and termination of inflammations of the lungs. On one side it is bounded by a long mountainous ridge, accompanying the course of the Moldan; on the other side it is partly bounded and partly traversed by wooded heights, rich in metallic products. A great portion is covered by standing water, while there are but few flowing streams, and altogether, this region is one of the least favored parts of Bohemia.

The soil is moderately productive, the climate generally more rough than that of many localities, such as the vicinity of Prague, situated more towards the North. The summer is short, the autumn sets in early with protracted storms, the winter is quite severe, and the spring backward and cold until the end of May. The winds are changeable and violent, both on the heights and in the valleys. The inhabitants are mostly poor, and gain a precarious livelihood by laborious occupations. Many of them work in the fields during all changes in the weather; others are employed as woodcutters in the forests; a large portion spend half their lives in the silver-works of Příbram, in the iron mines of Obesnitz, Mnischek, &c., or work in smelting huts, blast furnaces, stamping mills, machine shops, and iron foundries. It is evident that such conditions must be very favorable to the production of pulmonary inflammation.

Hitherto this form of disease had only been

treated by the old school of medicine. The remedies usually applied were local and general depletions, a mixture of *aqua laurocerasi*, *tart. emet.*, nitre, and *extr. hyosc.*, and towards the end of the attack *sulphur aurat. antim.* The disease had always been very fatal, and was so much feared by the common people that it was usual to send for the priest at the same time with the physician.

The number of cases that I had under treatment from July 1st, 1854, to May 1st, 1855, a period of 10 months, amounted to 49. Of the cases 44 recovered and 5 died. Of the latter I shall speak again further on. 24 were men, 12 women, and 13 children. 8 cases had been depleted, and had taken allopathic remedies before I was called. The others I treated alone from the commencement.

The following comprise the more instructive, as well as the fatal, cases.

I. Pneumonia bilateralis accedente pericarditide. Mr. V. St., about 35 years old, of medium size and somewhat enfeebled constitution, having a situation under government, which compelled him to undergo much bodily exertion, and undertake long pedestrian tours, was taken sick in the first or second week of August, 1854. His physician diagnosed pneumonia, and applied the treatment described above. This was followed by some alleviation and diminution of the inflammation. Soon after a violent and debilitating diarrhœa set in, which the physician designated as a complication of intestinal catarrh. This he controlled for a time with Dover's powder, so that he could continue the *tart. emet.* During the last week of the month violent pains set in in different joints, which was considered as a new complication in the form of articular rheumatism, and treated first with *empl. canth.* and then with a tartar emetic ointment.

On Aug. 30th., in the evening, the patient was taken with violent chills, lasting about an hour and a half, followed by a short dry heat, and then by intense heat and violent perspiration.

The attending physician thought these symptoms indicated a new exacerbation, bled the patient again, and ordered *nitre*.

On the afternoon of Aug. 31st., chills and heat again set in. The patient complained of violent piercing pains in his left side, and it was then thought advisable to call me in consultation.

The condition in which I found the patient exhibited the following:

a. General appearances. The patient lay

powerless on his bed. His emaciated, earth-colored features had an expression of the greatest anxiety, and fear of death. The eyes were dim and sunken, the nose sharp, a small part of the cheeks had a bluish color. Mouth open, lips and tongue dry, brown and cracked. The surface of the rest of the body had a slight icteric tinge. Pulse hard, full, frequent. The external surface very hot to the touch. Thirst for cold drinks.

b. Special, objective, and local symptoms. A careful examination of the thorax showed undoubted signs of hepatization in the lower and middle lobes of the right lung, (dull resistant percussion, bronchial respiration,) in the right upper lobe, puerile respiration, tympanic sound on percussion. The left lung was also hepatized in its lower and posterior part, as far up as the inferior angle of the scapula; in the upper part consonating rales were heard. The thorax was almost immovable during respiration, while the diaphragm was in violent action. No elevation could be detected in the cardiac region, but there was dulness on percussion corresponding to the situation and extent of the pericardium, and the application of the stethoscope disclosed distinct friction sound during the systole. At the same time there was violent, frequent and often unequal pulsation of the heart. The dyspnoea corresponded to these pectoral symptoms. Cough unfrequent, no expectoration. Abdomen sensitive to the touch. Liver and spleen normal. Loose painless discharges, several times a day, of thin faecal matter, mixed with flakes of mucus, and fragments of exfoliated epithelium.

c. Subjective symptoms. Confused and light feeling of the head, with remarkable slowness in comprehending and answering questions. Complaint about difficulty of breathing. Piercing pain in both sides of the chest; boring pain, burning like fire, in the cardiac region. Patient feels convinced that he must die.

The above symptoms, especially the repeated violent chills and the pains in the joints, led me to form a diagnosis of pneumonia of both sides, partly in the suppurative stage, complicated with rheumatic pericarditis.

Out of consideration for the attending physician, it seemed incumbent on me to make as little change as possible in the course of treatment hitherto pursued. A quinine mixture, which had been prescribed, was omitted; a cantharides plaster was removed from the region of the heart, and a solution of *extr. aconiti*, gr. j in *aq. dest. unc. IV.* was or-

dered, one tea-spoonful to be given every two hours. The thirst was to be satisfied with fresh water.

Sept. 1st. No change in any of the symptoms. The chills had returned during the night, and also once during the day. The patient's strength was evidently failing. Wavering between consideration for the attending physician, and my conviction of what I had yesterday already considered as the only appropriate Homœopathic remedy, I tried to pursue a middle course, and proposed the use of a few drops of Fowler's solution in distilled water. This preparation could not be obtained at the pharmacy of the place. I therefore determined to pursue what could be considered as a purely expectant treatment, and what was also considered advisable, under the existing circumstances, by the attending physician.

It was agreed to prescribe *decoctum altheae cum syrup. op.*, and I also sent the patient *arsenic*, 6th dilution, 4 doses of 1 drop each, mixed with *sacch. lactis*, to be taken every 3 hours.

Sept. 2d. There had been no particular change in the objective symptoms, but the anxiety had somewhat diminished, and there had been no return of the chills. Prescribed *arsen.* 6th dilution, 3 doses in 12 hours, and continued the *decoct. alth.*

Sept. 3d and 4th. Continuance of the pericardiac symptoms. Mucous rales here and there in the lungs. After somewhat difficult cough, a slight, tough, whitish expectoration, adhering to the vessel, and mixed with some *sputa cocta*. Moderate diarrhoea.

Sept. 6th. Last night, after a gross error in his diet, the patient had been seized with another chill. At the morning visit I found a great aggravation in the general condition. The surface was burning hot, and covered by a clammy sweat. The expectoration had ceased. Dyspnoea and anxiety seemed to have reached the highest degree. Auscultation revealed an increase of the pericarditis. Under these circumstances there was a great temptation to change the prescription, or, at least, to give some intermediate remedy. But as there was no essential change in the general condition, and as the last remedy had been correctly chosen to the best of my belief, I determined to adhere to it. The only change I made was to order *arsen.*, 6th dilution, 6 drops in 12 table-spoonful of water, 1 spoonful every hour. In the evening there was already a marked general improvement.

Sept. 7th. The improvement continues. The expectoration has returned, being partly tough and whitish, and partly soft and yellow. Auscultation reveals mucous rales in the hep- atized portions of the lungs. Respiration more easy. Pericardial friction diminished, pulsation of heart and pulse slower. The urine shows a critical sediment for the first time.—*Therapia contin.*

Sept. 8th to 10th. Gradual improvement under the use of the same remedy.

Sept. 11th. Expectoration abundant, consisting entirely of *sputa cocta*. In the lungs, signs of continuous resolution, (permeability, clearer sound on percussion, &c.) Pericardial friction sound very indistinct. No diarrhoea for three days. Mind quiet. Great weakness, almost incessant perspiration, return of the rheumatic pains in the right wrist and left shoulder. Prescribed *merc. viv.* 3d trituration, 2 grains, 3 times a day. Under the use of this remedy, the resolution of the pneumonia continued, the signs of pericarditis disappeared, the perspiration diminished daily. On *Sept. 17th.* the pneumonia of 6 weeks' duration, as well as the complication of pericarditis, and its exciting cause, the articular rheumatism, could all be considered as removed.

From this time the patient, who was still very weak, received 2 drops of *cinchona*, 1st dilution, three times a day, until *Sept. 28th*, when I discharged him as cured, much to the gratification of the attending physician, at the effect of—the expectant treatment.

From this case I deduced for myself the following corollaries.

1. A Homœopathic physician, who is called to a patient under Allopathic treatment, should yield to no consideration except the welfare of his patient. He owes to his Allopathic colleague all respect, but not the smallest concession. All attempts at mutual accommodation are useless, and detrimental to the welfare of the patient.

2. If we are sure of the selection of the proper remedy, we can adhere to it with perfect tranquillity, even if there should be a temporary aggravation. Many changes only confuse, and prevent a proper conception of the course of the disease.

3. This case of pneumonia was prolonged by the debilitating treatment by depletion. The intestinal canal was affected by the use of the tartar emetic. The pericarditis was caused by the cantharides plaster applied to the articulations.

VENTILATION.

Nothing new can be presented to show the importance of breathing pure, fresh air, more cogent than has been taught in a popular form hundreds of times over. It is a famous subject for physiological lecturers to dwell upon, and before country lyceums, there must be an absolute dread of a lecturer who commences with ventilation. They can bear a breeze from any other direction with more grace. Next to that endless theme, before the same auditories, of *common education*, about which those who say the most, practically knew the least, the value of ventilation has never lacked for expounders. Our ancestors neither knew nor cared a fig about it. They breathed, and that was all they thought about the subject. Now, every public edifice must be constructed upon scientific principles, so that the ventilation may be perfect. By attending to this in connection with many other minor matters having a bearing upon individual health, the length of human life has certainly been considerably increased; and it may be still further prolonged by complying with the intimations of Nature herself, who never makes a mistake in respect to the observance of a law.

Let us read what the best physiological authors have to say upon this point. Some persons may be in pursuit of these facts, either to strengthen a theory, construct a parlor stove, eke out a new guide to health, or for making a scientific display before a body of hygienic inquirers. For studious medical gentlemen, there is nothing new in the following article.

Purity of the Respired Air.—The average quantity of carbonic acid given out by the lungs constitutes about 4.48 per cent. of the expired air, but if the air which is breathed be previously impregnated with carbonic acid (as is the case when the same air is frequently respired), then the quantity of carbonic acid exhaled becomes much less. This is shown by the results of two experiments performed by Allen and Pepys (xliii. 1808-9). In one, in which fresh air was taken in at each inspiration, thirty-two cubic inches of carbonic acid were exhaled in a minute; whilst in the other, in which the same air was respired repeatedly, the quantity of carbonic acid emitted in the same time was only 9.5 cubic inches. They found also that however often the same air may be respired, even if until it will no longer sustain life, it does not become charged with more

than 10 per cent. of carbonic acid. The necessity of a constant supply of fresh air, by means of ventilation, through rooms in which many persons are breathing together, or in which, from any other source, much carbonic acid is evolved, is thus rendered obvious; for even when the air is not completely irrespirable, yet in the same proportion as it is already charged with carbonic acid, does the further extrication of that gas from the lungs suffer hindrance.

The *period of day* seems to exercise a slight influence on the amount of carbonic acid exhaled in a given time, though beyond the fact that the quantity exhaled is much less by night than by day, we are scarcely yet in a position to state that variations in the amount exhaled occur at uniform periods of the day, independent of the influence of other circumstances. By the *use of food* the quantity is increased, whilst by fasting it is diminished; and, according to Regnault and Reiset, it is greater when animals are fed on farinaceous food than when fed on meat. Spirituous drinks, especially when taken on an empty stomach, produce an immediate and marked diminution in the quantity of this gas exhaled. *Bodily exercise*, in moderation, increases the quantity to about one-third more than it is during rest; and for about an hour after exercise the volume of the air expired in the minute is increased about 118 cubic inches: and the quantity of carbonic acid about 7.8 cubic inches per minute. During *sleep*, on the other hand, there is a considerable diminution in the quantity of this gas evolved; a result probably in great measure dependent on the tranquillity of the breathing: directly after waking, there is a great, though quickly transitory, increase in the amount exhaled. A larger quantity is exhaled when the barometer is low than when it is high.

The *Oxygen in respired air is always less* than in the same air before respiration, and its diminution is generally proportionate to the increase of the carbonic acid. The experiments of Valentin and Brunner (iv. Bd. i.) seem to show that for every volume of carbonic acid exhaled into the air, 1.17421 volumes of oxygen are absorbed from it; and that when the average quantity of carbonic acid, *i. e.*, 1345.3 cubic inches, or 635.85 grains, is exhaled in the hour, the quantity of oxygen absorbed in the same time is 1583.6 cubic inches, or 541.5 grains. According to this estimate, there is more oxygen absorbed than is exhaled with carbon in the carbonic acid, for oxygen combines with carbon to form carbonic acid without change of volume; and to this general

conclusion, namely, that the volume of air expired in a given time is less than that of the air inspired (allowance being made for the expansion in being heated), and that the loss is due to a portion of oxygen absorbed and not returned in the exhaled carbonic acid, all observers agree, though as to the actual quantity of oxygen so absorbed they differ even widely.

The quantity of oxygen that does not combine with the carbon given off in carbonic acid from the lungs, is probably disposed of in forming some of the carbonic acid and water given off from the skin, and in combining with sulphur and phosphorus to form part of the acids of the sulphates and phosphates excreted in the urine, and probably, also, from the experiments of Dr. Bence Jones (vi. April, 1851, and lxxxviii. August 30, 1851), with the nitrogen of the decomposing nitrogenous tissues.

The quantity of oxygen consumed seems to vary much, not only in different individuals, but in the same individual at different periods; thus it is considerably influenced by food, being greater in dogs when fed on farinaceous than on animal food, and much diminished during fasting, while it varies at different stages of digestion. Animals of small size consume a relatively much greater amount of oxygen than larger ones. The quantity of oxygen in the atmosphere surrounding animals, appears to have very little influence on the amount of this gas absorbed by them, for the quantity consumed is not greater even though an excess of oxygen be added to the atmosphere experimented with. (Regnault and Reiset, *exc.* July, 1850, p. 252.)

Valentin and Brunner's estimates of the interchange of the oxygen and carbonic acid in respiration, led them to believe that the exchanged quantities of the two gases are always in the proportion of their *diffusion-volumes*; a conclusion which, if it were established, would justify us in explaining the process of respiration as one due only to the properties of the gases, and their tendency to diffuse or mingle with one another in certain fixed proportions by volume. But the grounds are not yet strong enough for so weighty a conclusion; and against it appear the many instances of deviation from the law, which seem proved by good experiments.* If the exchange of gases were according to the law of diffusion, their proportions ought never to vary; however much the circumstances of the general economy might

* The objections to Valentin's theory, and his answers to them, are all in his *Annual Reports on Physiology*, in *Cantstatt's Jahresberichte*, since 1843.

change the quantity of one (as of the carbonic acid in the instances already quoted), the quantity of the other should be equally and at the same time changed. Whereas, in many experiments, and even in some of Valentin's, the proportion of oxygen absorbed has been less or more than, according to the law of diffusion, it should have been. Especially, the experiments of Dulong and Despretz seemed to show that, in Carnivora, the oxygen absorbed always bears a larger proportion to the carbonic acid evolved than it does in Herbivora; and the recent careful experiments of Regnault and Reiset (xviii. 1848) confirm this, while they in no case show such a proportion between the gases exchanged as, according to the law of diffusion, there should be. They show that in the dog, for every 100 parts of carbonic acid formed in twenty-four hours, 134.3 parts of oxygen were on the average absorbed; and in the rabbit and hen, for every 100 parts of carbonic acid, 109.34 parts of oxygen; while, according to the diffusion-law, the proportion should be always 117.42 parts of oxygen to 100 of carbonic acid.

It may be added, that the conditions of the gases engaged in respiration are not those in which the law of diffusion would exactly hold. The law requires that both gases should be free and under equal pressure: while, in the actual case, the gas in the blood is dissolved, under pressure, and separated by a membrane from that into which it is to diffuse. It is possible that these peculiarities of the conditions may account for the deviations from the law while it is really in operation; but many more facts than are yet ascertained will be necessary to prove this.

The Nitrogen of the atmosphere, in relation to the respiratory process, is supposed to serve only mechanically, by diluting the oxygen, and moderating its action upon the system. This purpose, or the mode of expressing it, has been lately denied by Liebig (xi. 3d edit. p. 184,) on the ground that, if we suppose the nitrogen removed, [the amount of oxygen in a given space would not be altered. But although it be true that if all the nitrogen of the atmosphere were removed, and not replaced by any other gas, the oxygen might still extend over the whole space at present occupied by the mixture of which the atmosphere is composed; yet since, under ordinary circumstances, oxygen and nitrogen, when mixed together in the ratio of one volume to four, produce a mixture which occupies precisely five volumes, with all the properties of atmospheric air, it

must result that a given volume of atmosphere drawn into the lungs contains four-fifths less weight of oxygen than an equal volume composed entirely of oxygen. The greater rapidity and brilliancy with which combustion goes on in an atmosphere of oxygen than in one of common air, and the increased rapidity with which the ordinary effects of respiration are produced when oxygen instead of atmospheric air is breathed, seem to leave no doubt that the nitrogen with which the oxygen of the atmosphere is mixed has the effect of diluting this gas, in the same sense and degree as one part of alcohol is diluted when mixed with four parts of water.

It has been often discussed whether nitrogen be ever absorbed or exhaled from the atmosphere in respiration. That it may, in some conditions, be either absorbed or exhaled, is proved by experiments of Allen and Pepys, who found that when guinea-pigs were made to breathe in a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen, nitrogen was exhaled, and in a quantity exceeding the volume of the whole body of the animal. The lower animals also, especially insects, are said to exhale nitrogen (Trevisanus, xxxii. p. 330, Am. Ed.), and fishes to absorb it from the water in which they breathe, though they do not absorb hydrogen (Humboldt, xxxii. p. 330, Am. Ed.)

But we cannot, from these facts, safely conclude what is the case in the ordinary conditions of life. In the earlier experiments, it seemed as if small quantities of nitrogen were sometimes absorbed, and sometimes exhaled, in respiration in atmospheric air. The later experiments of M. Boussingault (xviii. 1846,) on turtledoves, would prove that, besides the nitrogen excreted from the digestive canal and kidneys, nearly 21.2 grains are daily discharged from the skin and lungs; and those of MM. Regnault and Reiset (xviii. 1848, and liii. 1849) on dogs, rabbits, and fowls, prove constantly a certain exhalation of nitrogen, the proportion seeming to vary according to the nature of the food, while they also find that during prolonged fasting, nitrogen instead of being exhaled is absorbed.

Watery Vapor is, under ordinary circumstances, always exhaled from the lungs in breathing. The quantity emitted is, as a general rule, sufficient to saturate the expired air (Valentin, iv. Bd. i. p. 547), or very nearly so (Moleschott, cxxi.) Its absolute amount is, therefore, influenced by the following circumstances. First, by the volume of air expired; for the greater this is, the greater also

will be the quantity of moisture exhaled. Secondly, by the quantity of watery vapor contained in the air previous to its being inspired; because the greater this is, the less will be the amount required to complete the saturation of the air. Thirdly, by the temperature of the expired air; for the higher this is, the greater will be the quantity of watery vapor required to saturate the air. Fourthly, by the length of time which each volume of inspired air is allowed to remain in the lungs; for it seems probable that, although during ordinary respiration the expired air is always saturated with watery vapor, yet when respiration is performed very rapidly, the air has scarcely time to be raised to the highest temperature, or be fully charged with moisture ere it is expelled.

For ordinary cases, however, it may be held that the expired air is saturated with watery vapor, and hence is derivable a means of estimating the quantity exhaled in any given time; namely, by subtracting the quantity contained in the air inspired from the quantity which (at the same barometric pressure) would saturate the same air at the temperature of expiration, which is ordinarily about 99°. And, on the other hand, if the quantity of watery vapor in the expired air be estimated, the quantity of air itself may from it be determined, being as much as that quantity of watery vapor would saturate at the ascertained temperature and barometric pressure.

The quantity of water exhaled from the lungs in twenty-four hours ranges (according to the various modifying circumstances already mentioned) from about 3000 to 13,000 grains (6 to 27 ounces.) Some of this is probably formed by the combination of the excess of oxygen absorbed in the lungs with the hydrogen of the blood; but the far larger proportion of it must be the mere exhalation of the water of the blood, taking place from the surface of the air-passages and cells, as it does from the free surfaces of all moist animal membranes, particularly at the high temperature of warm-blooded animals. It is exhaled from the lungs, whatever be the gas respired, continuing to be expelled even in hydrogen gas.

Open wide the window, and fasten it there,
Fling the curtain aside and the blind,
And give a free entrance to heaven's pure air;
'Tis the life and the health of mankind.

Are you fond of coughs, colds, dyspepsia, rheums,
Of headaches, and fevers, and chills?
Of bitters, hot drops, and fumes?
And bleeding, and blisters, and pills?

Then shut yourself up like a monk in his cave,
Till nature grows weary and sad,
And imagine yourself on the brink of the grave,
Where nothing is cheerful and glad;

Be sure when you sleep that all air is shut out;
Place, too, a warm brick at your feet—
Wrap a bandage of flannel your neck about,
And cover your head with a sheet.

But would you avoid the dark gloom of disease?
Then haste to the fresh open air,
That your cheek may be fann'd by its breeze,
'Twill make you well, happy and fair,

O prize not this lightly, so precious a thing,
'Tis laden with gladness and wealth,
The richest of blessings that heaven can bring
The bright panacea of health.

Then open the window, and fasten it there!
Fling the curtain aside and the blind,
And give a free entrance to heaven's pure air,
'Tis the light, life and joy of mankind.

The Poisoning Epidemic.—Since the trial of Palmer, of which we gave an account in our July number, says the Law Reporter of November, there have been at least three trials in one circuit in England for alleged poisoning. William Dove was tried and convicted towards the end of July for killing his wife by strychnine. The case is chiefly remarkable when considered in connection with that of Palmer.

Dove heard of the murder of Cook, and that strychnine could not be detected, and he spoke of this to several persons; he bought the drug and gave it to his wife in several doses. Before her death attention was at once turned to the detection of strychnine, and it was readily discovered by chemists of no very extraordinary skill, the dose having been apparently a good deal too large, and the search for this particular poison having been begun immediately. The defence chiefly relied on was insanity, and proof was given of repeated acts of cruelty, stupidity, and folly, committed by the prisoner from his earliest years; it was an attempt to *prescribe* for the commission of crime, by showing it to have been his custom from the beginning to commit it. The jury found him guilty, with a recommendation to mercy, which, however, was disregarded by the government. His execution was attended by a vast crowd, many persons coming from a long distance by rail as they would to a fair or cattle show.

The other two trials which have come under our notice were both of them of wives for poisoning or attempting to poison their husbands. There is nothing of especial interest to note in them, excepting that the evidence showed a great carelessness on the part of apothecaries and their apprentices in the care and sale of poisonous drugs, and the learned judges hoped that Parliament would interpose some restrictions.

FLOATING FACTS.

Hereditary Longevity.—A negress, at Pas-Christian, Louisiana, is spoken of in the papers, who is believed to be the oldest woman in America. She could not tell her own age, but stated that she was the mother of nine children—the youngest of whom, standing by, was ninety.

M. Charles Lejoncourt published, in 1842, his *Galerie de Centenaires*, in which may be read a curious list of examples proving the hereditary nature of longevity. In one page we have a day laborer dying at the age of 108, his father lived to 104, his grandfather to 108, and his daughter then living had reached 80. In another we have a saddler whose grandfather died at 112, his father at 113, and he himself at 115; this man, aged 113, was asked by Louis XIV. what he had done to so prolong life: his answer was—"Sire, since I was fifty I have acted upon two principles; I have shut my heart and opened my wine cellar." M. Lejoncourt also mentions a woman then living aged 150, whose father died at 124, and whose uncle at 113. But the most surprising of the cases by Lucas, is that of Jean Golembiewski, a Pole, who in 1846 was still living, aged 102, having been eighty years as a common soldier, in thirty-five campaigns under Napoleon, and having even survived the terrible Russian campaign, in spite of five wounds, and a soldier's recklessness of life. His father died aged 121, and his grandfather 130. Indeed, the practice of every annuity and insurance office suffices to convince us of ordinary experience having discovered that length of life is somehow dependent on hereditary influence.

About twenty-five years ago, Donald McDonald, a native of Scotland, at the age of 107 was sent to the House of Correction in Boston, by the Police Court, for hard drinking and being quarrelsome. Capt. Robbins, the present master of the institution, was then an officer in the building. Donald stated that his father died at the age of 137, and his life was cut short by an accidental injury of the spine! On being liberated, Donald wandered off to Lynn, where he finally died. His skeleton is said to have been in the anatomical collection of the late Dr. Warren.

Fatal Cures.—The late Lord Gardstone, himself a valetudinarian, took the pains to inquire for those persons who had actually at-

tested marvellous cures, and found that more than two thirds of the number died shortly after they had been cured. Sir Robert Walpole, Lord Bolingbroke and Winington were killed by being cured.

Old Age.—Mrs. Mary Bennett died recently in Philadelphia, at the advanced age of 102 years. She was a woman grown at the time of the Declaration of Independence.

At Irondequoit, N. Y., Richard Murphy had been a tenant of Hon. John Greig, of Cannadaigua, for more than thirty years. His wife was a slave of Mr. Greig's father, and the husband accounted himself 80 years old when he went upon the farm, where he has since resided; consequently he must have been 110 years old at his death.

Two instances of remarkable longevity have recently been recorded. A Turkish manufacturer of toys near Constantinople died aged 113 years, and a lady belonging to a rich family of bankers of Constantinople died at Smyrna at the age of 117 years. Fewer people attain to great age in this hot country than in colder climates.

Magnetic Investigations.—The eminent Dr. Scoresby, well known among European savans, has at his present advanced age gone to Australia, for the purpose of scientific observation, chiefly connected with the phenomena of magnetism, and especially the state of the compass in ships.

Dr. Scoresby stated in our hearing, that iron that would receive the greatest amount of magnetic influence, makes the best steel; and fine cutlery should be made from no other.

Sleep.—It was the opinion of Dr. Alexander, that clergymen, authors, teachers, and other men of reflective habits, lose much health by losing sleep, and this because they carry their trains of thought to bed with them.

In his youth he injured his health by studying sermons late at night. Hundreds are doing so in both town and country. The age demands perpetual intellectual effort—and physicians know the age is wrong.

Hydropathic Medical College.—It seems there is one in New York, where everything new, strange or useful converges. The opening exercises will take place on Monday evening, 17th inst., to be followed by the regular course of lectures.

Personal Identity.—Extraordinary cases of resemblance of two persons, no way related, has unfrequently led to great embarrassments in Europe and America. Litigations have grown out of these perplexing circumstances, and court records are sufficient to sustain the proposition. The following is of a recent date :

A young girl, suffering from severe illness, was admitted into the hospital of Arras some time back. In the room in which she was placed was another young girl, who, after gazing at her for some time, exclaimed—"I recognize your features; you came from my village, and are named _____. You left your mother's house seven years ago, and have never written since to any of your family." The young girl upbraided her companion for this conduct, which, she added, had caused great grief to her relations. The other girl denied the truth of this statement, but failed to shake the belief entertained by her companion with respect to her identity. At length the girl confessed that her name was _____, and by the exertions of her companion, her relations, whom she had formerly deserted, agreed to again receive her. On arriving at her native village, everybody recognized her, and universal astonishment was experienced at the absence of any change in her features, notwithstanding the seven years that had passed over them. In time she was sought for in marriage by a farmer of some means; and her parents having given their consent, the marriage was celebrated.

Some weeks after, the mother of the girl who had gone away, received a letter, accompanied with presents from her daughter, who expressed her regret at not having once written home during her seven years absence, and stated that she was happily married in Prussia. In fact, it was evident that the girl from the hospital was an impostor. A scene of reproaches and explanations ensued in which the young bride confessed the fraud, and the matter will be brought before the legal authorities.

Exploring Expedition at Home.—The steamer Goddess has arrived at St. Louis, from Upper Missouri. Among her passengers were Dr. Heydon, naturalist, with five tons of curiosities, and Lieut. Warren and his party from the Exploring Expedition at the head waters of the Missouri. At Yellowstone, Lieut. Warren met Sir George Gove, near North Yellowstone. The small pox was raging to a considerable extent among the Indians.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. David Middleton, the hereafter to be called great African traveller, has arrived at Mauritius, on his way to England.

Santonine, the active principle of Southernwood, is spoken of with commendation, as a vermifuge. On the authority of Dr. Bishop, it is used extensively for that purpose in Italy.

Dr. Wood, a Veterinary Surgeon of Boston, has reported a case of the rupture of the diaphragm in a horse, in the American Veterinary Journal. The "diaphragm on the right side was torn irregularly through the muscular portion, about ten or twelve inches."

L'esprit est sujet aux maladies épidémiques tout comme le corps; il n'y a qu'à commencer sous des favorables auspices, et lorsque la matière est bien préparée. La différence qu'il y a entre ces maladies et la peste, ou le petite vérole, c'est que celles-ci sont incomparablement plus fréquentes, says Bayle.

The stomach of the Ant-Bear has a remarkable mechanical structure, quite unlike that of any other animal, the design of which is obvious. Its long whip-lash tongue, covered with adhesive saliva, is thrust into ant-hills, and brings out on its surface hundreds of ants, which are ground slightly between the teeth, and then swallowed. So imperfect is the mastication, that the insects are rather maimed than killed, and vast numbers therefore are swallowed alive. The lining membrane of the stomach is curiously arranged to act as a valve over the cardiac and pyloric orifices, which makes the organ a perfectly closed sack. This has reference to preventing escape till life in them is extinct, and the process of digestion commences.

John J. Brown & Son, corner of Washington and Eliot Streets, Boston, manufacture what are called Bronchial Troches—composed principally of liquorice, ipecac, &c., which are excellent for slight coughs and inflammatory conditions of the throat. And better still, they make no pretensions to a secret in the composition; hence any one having a horror of nostrums may use them with real advantage.

Ambrose Paré's works, in several volumes, have been beautifully re-published in Paris. His surgery compares favorably with the best exhibitions of modern skill. They would be sought for in an English translation. There is nothing in the annals of surgery more extraordinary than the records of Paré's practice. There have been great men in the world before

to-day, — the opinions of mushroom Solomons to the contrary, notwithstanding.

Hippocrates says that a physician ought to have a healthful appearance: his dress should be neat and his person clean, and unperfumed, lest it might be supposed he employed perfumes to conceal some disagreeable emanation that might be unpleasant to the sick.

Galen relates this remarkable fact. "The sternum being removed, and part of the putrified pericardium, the heart became conspicuous, as if in an animal dissected for the purpose. The patient recovered." The illustrious physician who recorded this case, was born at Pergamos, in Asia Minor, A. D. 130. At 32 years of age he settled as a medical practitioner in Rome, where he died at the age of 100, having lived under Antoninus, Marcus Aurelius, Lucius Verus, Commodus and Severus.

Small Pox is exerting its fatal powers in Utah — spreading in all directions among the people, to their extreme horror. They have singularly neglected vaccination, and consequently the destruction of life will be melancholy. A letter came from the Sandwich Islands to Boston, last week, for vaccine virus to be sent forthwith.

Some extraordinary surgical operations have recently been performed in New York. It is becoming the place to study surgery.

Bills for the appropriation of five thousand dollars each to the medical colleges at Savannah and Atlanta, was unfortunately lost in the Legislature of Georgia, at the last session.

A new question for physiologists to answer. Dr. Kane says, "the use of the stones which the walrus swallows is still an interesting question. The ussuk or beared seal has the same habit," in the Arctic Sea.

On the 5th of February, the thermometer indicated from 60 to 75 degrees below zero. At that temperature, chloric ether became solid, and carefully prepared chloroform exhibited a granular pellicle on its surface. The spirit of naphtha froze at 54°, and oil of sassafras at 79. The oil of wintergreen was in a flacculent state at 56, and solid at 63 and 65 degrees. Cold weather that.

The library of the late celebrated Dr. Percival, the geologist, is reported to be worth \$30,000.

W. D. Crowne, M. D. of London, has been writing learnedly on the heat reflected from the clouds over that City. His thermometrical experiments were curious, but he cannot clear away the fog in which it is often densely enveloped.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 26, 1856.

SUCCESS OF THE MEDICAL WORLD.—Although this publication has been in existence only eight weeks, the extent of cordial approval and solid patronage already bestowed upon the enterprise, is exceedingly gratifying. It was commenced without a single subscriber; but the catalogue of substantial names now on the subscription list, is amply sufficient to show that the mission of *The Medical World* is appreciated at home and abroad. Each day brings additional subscribers. Very many congratulatory communications have been received, expressive of the interest felt by medical gentlemen of distinction and influence in various parts of the United States, in the success of the undertaking. With a disposition to avail ourselves of the advantages that would accrue from their publication on reflection, it has been thought best to place them on file for a future occasion. This Journal interferes with no other medical periodical, nor will it be diverted from the original intention of making it a messenger of universal medical intelligence.

One or two of the first seven numbers are so nearly exhausted that it will be necessary to reprint them, it being otherwise impossible to supply the demand for full sets of the work.

Thanking those who have been thus prompt in their expressions of encouragement and good-will, we shall endeavor to merit their approbation.

VITAL AND MORAL STATISTICS OF PRUSSIA.—E. B. Elliott, Esq., of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Office, Boston, prepared in July, a learned table of deductions from official Prussian documents, with a view to ascertaining the value or rather expectation of life in reckoning from any given period.

For example, a child at birth, in good health, has a prospect of reaching the age of forty, — and so on.

The paper by Mr. Elliott bears the title of *Vital Statistics*. A portion of his calculations are detached, simply, to illustrate the moral statics of a highly civilized European kingdom, where all the appliances of a high civilization are presumed to be in full force.

In 1840, Prussia had a population of 14,928,501.

Proportion of annual marriages during the two years 1840-41 to the population at the end of 1840, 1 per cent., (.899) or 1 in 11; Average annual number of persons married during the same period, 2 per cent. (1.80) of population, or 1 in 56. Average annual number of births, stillborn included, of the two years 1840-41, 3.95 per cent. of population, or 1 in 25; Average annual number of births, stillborn excluded, of the same period, 3.80 per cent., or 1 in 26; Average annual number of deaths, stillborn included, of the same period, 2.81 per cent., or 1 in 36; Average

annual number of deaths, stillborn excluded, 2.64 per cent., or 1 in 38: Average annual number of deaths among those over 5 years of age, of the same period, 1.73 per cent. of the population over 5 years of age, or 1 in 58; There died under one year of age, of legitimate births, stillborn excluded, for the three years 1839-40-41, 17 per cent., or 1 in 6; There died under one year of age, of illegitimate births, during the same period, 58.7 per cent., or 1 in 2 (1.7); There died under one year of age, of total births, 18.5 per cent., or 1 in 5 (5.4); There were stillborn, of male births, 4.2 per cent., or 1 in 24; female births, 3.3 per cent., or 1 in 30; total births, 3.8 per cent., or 1 in 26; legitimate births, 4 per cent., (3.6,) or 1 in 28; illegitimate births, 54 per cent., or 1 in 2; male illegitimate births, 61 per cent., or 3 in 5; female illegitimate births, 47 per cent., or 1 in 2; There were illegitimate of births, stillborn included, 7 per cent.; still born excluded, 6.9 per cent.; stillborn included, for the twenty-six years, 1816-41, 7 per cent.; The ratio of male to female births, stillborn included, for the twenty-six years, 1816-41, was as 106 to 100; Male to female births, stillborn included, for the three years, 1839-41, 106 to 100; Male to female births, stillborn excluded, for the same period, 105 to 100; Stillborn males to females for the same period 136 to 100; Legitimate stillborn males to females 138 to 100; Illegitimate stillborn males to females 117 to 100; Of total deaths during the three years, stillborn excluded, there attained the natural term of life, and died of the debility of old age, 12 per cent.; There died by suicide, 4 per cent.; There died by accidents of all kinds 1.5 per cent.; Of female deaths, there were in childbed 2.4 per cent.; The number of deaths of women in childbed to the total number of births, stillborn included, was .79 per cent.; Hence, about 8 of every 1,000 births resulted in the death of the mother.

MATRIMONY MEDICALLY CONSIDERED.—Nothing would be more nonsensical than a treatise designed to encourage or discourage marriage. The Shakers and Mormons are mighty in arguments for and against it, and yet the majority of mankind take wives, not by the dozen, as they do in Utah, but only one at a time, which is equally shocking to the broad brims of the Ann Lee school, who contend there are people enough in the world already, without encouraging a further multiplication.

Longevity is promoted by appropriate marriage. But most unfortunately for the ends contemplated in that Divine institution, two-thirds of such holy connections bring on premature decay. Many, out of patience for a natural death to terminate their misery, hang themselves. Happy marriages bear about the proportion of one to a million, and are usually found in humble life.

Physicians understand what physiological laws are violated to produce these melancholy results. Should a distinguished medical philosopher, however, who commands the confidence of society, tell the truth in regard to this matter, he would be mobbed. One of the sources of this immense amount of domestic wretchedness is discoverable in the fact that neither the husband nor wife possesses certain qualities, each conceives to be essential to happiness. Whether men-

tal or physical, they alone possess the secret, and at last the grave conceals it forever.

Fretful, disobedient, wayward children — those who make their parents infinite trouble, and keep up a perpetual heartache, derive their being from these fountains of matrimonial discord. Phrenology actually teaches the way to domestic felicity, but the doctrine is disregarded, because marriage has become a branch of trade in all well-to-do families. A suitor without a shilling, in the language of calculation, is a poor devil. Character and capacity are nothing in the estimation of daughters who ride in their father's coach; and a lady who is not an unmistakable heiress, can hardly expect an agreeable offer in these calculating times.

MULTIPLICATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS.—Where the food is, there the eagles go, says the proverb. How completely is it illustrated in the city of Philadelphia. The more colleges, the more students. Recall the charters of all but one, and they would be reduced down to a hundred. If there were half a dozen more in New York, it might successfully compete with its thee-and-thou neighbor. Set three or four medical colleges in motion in Boston, and the matriculations in North Grove street would be quadrupled, and each of the others have respectable classes in their infancy.

Strange it is, and how true, that a monopoly in science is supposed to be profitable. Increased facilities and business follow. Would trade enrich the owner of the only store in town, if no one else were permitted to engage in the same pursuit? No:—five hundred shops attract attention, enlarge the market and multiply wealth a thousand fold. Boston ought to be the medical centre of the Northern States on account of its superior advantages for medical education. The way to make it so, is to have another college and another hospital. They would swallow up all the provincial schools in a single season.

MEDICAL BIOGRAPHIES.—The memory of too many worthy members of our profession is forgotten, and their efforts and example are lost to mankind, for the want of a biographical sketch of their lives. Each and all of those who have preceded us, sustained responsibilities which, at their death, were assumed by their successors in the same fatiguing routine of business, anxiety and care.

Biographical memoirs from every respectable source are solicited. There must have been something peculiar, admirable or perhaps absurdly eccentric, in the career of those whose deaths are weekly chronicled in the necrological columns of the papers. Send us, for it must be practicable to do so, the bright side of their every-day life, even if there are no extraordinaries appertaining to them. Biographies are read with avidity. An instinctive curiosity prompts us to examine into the circumstances of every one's rise or fall. It is moral instruction illustrated.

MEDICAL DISPENSARIES IN NEW YORK.—Were it not for the active medical benevolence exerted through the well-organized dispensaries of that city, the poor would be sadly neglected. It is honorable to the wealthy citizens of the great commercial emporium, that medical attentions are amply provided for in those well conducted institutions. Whether the physicians who give them their present high reputation, are paid for their services, is information very much coveted. Dispensary physicians in Boston have been recognized within a few years as human beings, requiring hats, coats, boots, office rent and fire wood, like their seniors. Excellent care is also taken of them in other charities, under the patronage of the cities and Commonwealth. How is it in Philadelphia, New Orleans, and at the West?

NEW ENGLAND FEMALE MEDICAL COLLEGE.—An institution is located in Boston, chartered by the State, for the medical education of females. Those who have received the benefits of the school, have devoted themselves, mostly, to the practice of midwifery. Long before any such college was contemplated, however, two, if not more, eminent medical practitioners of this metropolis, encouraged the placing of that branch in charge of competent females.

Certainly it must be within the recollection of very many, that Mrs. Alexander, who established herself in Boston, was extensively introduced to families, and enjoyed a highly remunerative professional income, on account of having been educated for that kind of practice in Edinburgh, which was a sufficient recommendation to those gentlemen, to warrant them in giving their powerful aid to extend her business.

"This was the first scientific innovation and regular trespass upon the domain of our profitable practice," said a true physician.

In a city of the magnitude of Boston, in which one female practitioner could not answer all the calls, such was the increasing popularity of her profession, that others were induced to embark in the same field of useful enterprise, seeing that it was encouraged by the faculty. To qualify them for meeting the responsibilities of a position society insisted they should hold,—as the best medical authority in the city advised it, the New England Female Medical College was devised, and finally organized.

The opposition arraigned against it, from the beginning, some future chronicler will doubtless insert in the diary of his own times. Its success, from the first inception, to the granting of a charter, and the patronage of the legislature to the extent of *one thousand dollars* a year, in 1854, for five years, to defray the expenses of forty female students; and a still further munificent grant of *ten thousand dollars*, the last season, to be expended towards a building, library, furniture, &c., as may be necessary, are due to its unrelenting enemies. In the mean while a large amount of money has been voluntarily offered by prominent,

influential persons throughout the New England States for the same purpose.

The list of annual subscribers is really quite a long document to read,—two hundred and forty-six of whom are citizens of Boston, of wealth, respectability and influence.

With such assistance from the treasury of the Commonwealth and permanent individual subscriptions, it will certainly be ably sustained.

Notwithstanding this acknowledged truth, which the whole current of history teaches us, that efforts to suppress measures, men or institutions which the people desire to have, never did succeed, but, on the contrary, leads to their development and permanency; still, a host seem to hope and expect to write down and pull down this harmless female seminary. A vindictive oppugnation vitalizes, strengthens and largely increases the public sympathy for this school, and further endowments will follow from the same source:

"Just like water on a wheel,
By opposition grinds the meal."

It is not because we have any personal feeling of interest in this denounced institution, more than we have for half a dozen others in the city of Boston or elsewhere, that we make these observations; but it is difficult to shut our eyes to the facts, or attempt to conceal the principle, that animate those who are intensely hostile to the New England Female Medical College. Had it never been opposed from a high source, it never would have had its present legal existence.

SMITH'S OPERATIVE SURGERY.—Within a day or two we have been re-examining a well-known and beautifully executed volume,—*a system of operative surgery, based upon the practice of surgeons in the United States, &c. &c. by Henry H. Smith, M. D., of Philadelphia, illustrated by plates of the highest artistic execution*,"—from the press of Lippincott, Grambo & Co. They were the publishers of the edition under consideration. Aside from the patriotic sentiments which a purely American work should call forth, the intrinsic worth of the treatise, to young surgeons, could not be estimated like ordinary property. A more finished production never emanated from the enterprising medical presses of Philadelphia, so far as printing and engraving are considered. But the immense amount of practical guidance,—*the how to do in all emergencies*, by showing how experienced native operators have done, is the book to consult.

We apprehend there may have been one prominent obstacle in the way in regard to the circulation of this deserving book,—the price. It could not be afforded for nothing,—because it is huge in dimensions, and contains six hundred and ninety-eight octavo pages of text. Still, where there is a will, there is a way. If the publishers could bring out a cheap edition, to meet the circumstances of young practitioners, they would confer a favor on their professional countrymen that

would not be forgotten when they find themselves in the receipt of such fees as a familiar acquaintance with Smith's Operative Surgery would ultimately enable them to command.

Great publishing houses cannot be supposed to know anything about scarcity of money, or poverty. But two thirds, at least, of all the coming-on-men in medicine and surgery, are in straightened circumstances; and, if the books they need are beyond their reach in price, one must borrow from another, instead of each one owning a copy for himself.

Economy must be practised in connection with physic, in the commencement of a professional life. That is the period of all others when ambition prompts them to be equal to every emergency. It is the time they need books, and want them too, more than when they are in the full tide of successful business, without a leisure moment for reading. Should these observations come under the eye of the publishers of Dr. Smith's admirable production, they will at least give us the credit of arguing the case logically in favor of the brotherhood, even if they cannot provide an edition within the means of those who most of all desire to have it.

M A R A G E S.

William R. Stanely, M. D., of Labaska, Penn., to Miss J. C. Kelly, of Maine.

At East Bridgewater, Mass., Edward Worcester, M. D., to Miss E. Howard.

In Boston, George Hayward, M. D., to Mrs. M. A. Benney.

D E A T H S.

At North Bennington, Vt., Mrs. Ranney, wife of Dr. J. W. Ranney, of that place. She, with another lady, was precipitated down a bank and suddenly killed.

In New York, Dr. William Ward, suddenly, at the age of 61.

At Boonville, Mo., Nathaniel Hutchinson, M. D., 64.

Dr. Movers, well known to the literary world from his labors on the history and language of the Phenicians, died on the 29th day of September, in Breslau, in the university of which town he was a Professor.

Vienna papers announce the death of Dr. Friedrich Kräuter, at the age of 66. He was the private secretary and intimate friend of Goethe. Mr. Lewes, in his life of the great poet, speaks of him as "his last secretary Kräuter, who never speaks of him (Goethe) but with idolatry."

At Bangor, Me., Joshua Prentiss Dickinson, M. D., aged 64, a native of Holliston, Mass., and son of the late Rev. Timothy Dickinson, of that place. Dr. Dickinson was a Collegiate graduate of Brown University, and a Medical graduate of Harvard, and had long been a resident of Bangor—having commenced his professional business here in the year 1816. He was well and favorably known to our citizens generally—but particularly endeared, as the agreeable and com-

municative companion, the kind friend, and the good physician, to those with whom his business or other relations in life brought him into immediate contact.

At Williamstown, Canada, Dr. John G. Bethune, 32.

At the Island of Madeira, Dr. Ross, an eminent English physician, of cholera. He had been in England but two days, when intelligence was received of the fearful invasion of Madeira by that terrible pestilence, which induced him to return forthwith. He landed August 30th, amid the acclamations of the people, and the day of arrival prescribed for seventy cholera patients. The disease was contracted, and he fell a martyr to the impulses of professional humanity.

About 150 miles north of Zacatecas, Mexico, Dr. D. B. Caball, of Danville, Virginia. He was murdered by a party of sixteen Camanche Indians.

Dr. John Thomson, of Hoboken, N. J., of typhus fever, 31.

At Yonkers, N. Y., Mrs. Mary Halsey, widow of the late Dr. J. B. Halsey.

At Randolphville, Texas, Dr. John A. Morgan—greatly deplored by the community.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 15.

Calvin Tarbell 1 mo., Alfred B. Freeman 2 mos., Margaret McDevitt 11 do., James Cull 18 do., Daniel Riley 18 do., Mary Callahan 3 do., Eunice Cook 75 yrs., Joseph Laskey 5 do., Melinda Valentine, 2 do., Wm. Johnson, 32 do., Mary Janvrin 80 do., Elizabeth Dunn 38 do., Margaret E. Behring 49 do., Catharine Murphy 38 do., Donald Finn 53 do., James Conway 2 do., Francis Roche 2 do., Ellen Crowley 8 do., Ann Mack 45 do., Mary Barrett 31 do., Catharine O'Leary 29 do., Dennis O'Brien 45 do., Mary E. Owens 2 do., Mary Cullen 2 do., Mary Behan 54 do., George W. Briggs 40 do., Hannah C. Marson 22 do., Catherine Ryan, 16 do., Elizabeth S. Cline 4 do., John Clark 35 do., Jesse Fellows 35 do., Thomas Hughes 4 mos., Mary F. Fitz 1 mo., Franklin Tenthorn 1 day, Emma A. Hathorne 3 mos., Elizabeth Keating 40 years, Sophia Cremon 25 do., Thomas Anderson 27 do., Ann Quinn 35 do., Mary J. Riley 83 do., John C. Sowman 37 do., Lucy R. Fuller 19 do., Timothy Coveney 2 do., Mary Farrell 2 do., John Perio 26 do., Garrett Walsh 92 do., Ellen Floren 29 do., Patrick J. Fleming 50 do., John Weir 35 do., Edgar R. Blackinton 15 mos., unknown female 45 do., Wm. F. Reed 2 days, Frank Dutton 16 mos., Angeline Curtis 31 yrs., Abby F. Bangs 24 do., Moses Stubbs 40 do., Eliza Jones 48 do., Stephen Clark 45 do., Henry Ruffin, 19 do., James J. Rutledge 20 do., Wm. T. Maynard 30 do., Charles H. Hopkins 31 do., John S. Braizer 43 do., Francis Riley 4 do., Michael McCloskey 2 do., Charles Nott 3 do., Wm. Riley 3 do., Margaret Ward 38 do., Bridget Rourke, 40 do., Francis Silvia 40 do., John Lynch 4 mos., John Lynch 4 do., Ann Bishop 5 do., Henry F. Rochford 57 yrs., Ann McKay 68 do., A. A. Riley 12 do., Mary O'Brien 5 ds., A. Connolly 15 yrs., M. Brown 26 do., D. Finn 53 do.

DISEASES.—Consumption 19, croup 4, cholera infantum 2, diarrhoea 3, dropsy 3, infantile diseases 3, unknown diseases 6, erysipelas 2, typhoid fever 2, scarlet fever 6, disease of the heart 2, intemperance 2, inflammation of lungs 3, old age 3, pleurisy 3, teething 3; other diseases 1 each, 13; total 79. Born in the United States 46, Ireland 18, England 3, Scotland 4, Germany and north of Europe 5, other foreign places 3.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

DECEMBER 3, 1856.

NUMBER 10.

WONDERFUL CURES.

PERFORMED BY HERR GASSNER.

We purpose from time to time giving sketches of the great quacks of former times, showing that the delusions then practised upon the community were similar to those now extant; and we commence our series by a short account of Herr Gassner, one of the most renowned imposters in the last century.

Gassner, a clergyman from the country of Bludenz, in Vorarlberg, healed many diseases through exorcism. In the year 1758 he was the clergyman of Klösterle, where by his exorcisms he became so celebrated that he drew a vast number of people to him. The flocking of the sick from Switzerland, the Tyrol, and Swabia, is said to have been so great, that the number of invalids was frequently more than a thousand, and they were many of them obliged to live under tents. The Austrian government gave its assistance, and Gassner now went under the patronage of the Bishop to Regensburg, where he continued to work wonders, till finally, Mesmer, on being asked by the Elector of Bavaria, declared that Gassner's cures and crises, which he so rapidly and wholly to the astonishment of the spectators produced, consisted in nothing more than in magnetic spiritual excitement, of which he gave convincing proofs in the presence of the Elector. Eschenmayer, in Keiser's Archives, gives us the following as Gassner's method of cure.

"He wore a scarlet cloak, and on his neck a silver chain. He usually had in his room a window on his left hand, and a crucifix on his right. With his face turned toward the patient, he touched the ailing part, and commanded that the disease should manifest itself; which was generally the case. He made this both cease and depart by a simple command. By calling on the name of Jesus, and through the faith of the patient, he drove out the devil and the disease. But every one that desired

to be healed must believe. Gassner availed himself sometimes of magnetic manifestations; he touched the affected part, covered it with his hand, and rubbed therewith vigorously both head and neck. He spoke chiefly Latin in his operations, and the devil is said often to have understood him perfectly."

A multitude of writings, both for and against Gassner's operations, now appeared; among them all, two are particularly worthy of notice. The first under the title of "Impartial Thoughts, or Something for the Physicians on the Mode of Cure by Herr Gassner in Elwanger, published by Dr. Schisel, and printed in Sulgbach, 1775." The other, "The Observations of an Impartial Physician on Herr Saratess' Grounds of Enquiry into the Gassner Cures, with an appendix on Convulsions, 1775;" probably by the same author. Dr. Schisel relates that with a highly respectable company, he himself travelled to Elwanger, and there saw the wonderful cures the fame of which had been spread far and wide by so many accounts both in newspapers and separate printed articles. We will now quote directly from his own work:—

"Some describe him as a holy and prophetic man; others accuse him of being a fantastic fellow, a charlatan, an impostor. Some extol him as a great mathematician—others denounce him as a dealer in the black art; some attribute his cures to be the magnet, or electrical power—others to sympathy and the power of imagination."

Schisel writes further that he gave himself all trouble to notice everything which might in the most distant manner affect the proceedings of the celebrated Herr Gassner. Schisel, indeed, seems to have been the man, from his quiet power of observation, his impartial judgment, and thorough medical education—which qualifications are all evident in his book—to give a true account of the cures of Gassner, while he notices all the circumstances, objections, and opinions which had been brought forward, or which presented themselves there.

He relates that Elwanger must have grown rich through the numbers of people who thronged thither, though Gassner took nothing for his trouble, and that the Elector on that account tolerated the long-continued concourse of people; that in March, 1853, many hundred patients arrived daily; that the apothecary gained more in one day than he otherwise would in a quarter of a year from the oil, eye-water, a universal powder made of Blessed Thistle, (*carduus benedictus*) and the incenses which Gassner ordered. The printers labored, with all their workmen, day and night, at their presses, to furnish sufficient pamphlets, prayers, and pictures, for the eager horde of admirers. He then minutely describes the room of Herr Gassner, his costume, and his proceedings with the sick; — “On a table stood a crucifix, and at the table sat Herr Gassner on a seat with his right side turned toward the crucifix, and his face toward the patient, and towards the spectators also. On his shoulders hung a blue red flowered cloak; the rest of his costume was clean, simple, and modest. A fragment of the True Cross hung on his breast from a silver chain; a half-silken sash girded his loins. He was forty-eight years of age, of a very lively countenance, cheerful in conversation, serious in command, patient in teaching, amiable towards every one, zealous for the honor of God, compassionate toward the oppressed, joyful with those of strong faith, acute in research, prophetic in symptoms and quiet indications; an excellent theologian, a fine philosopher, and admirable physiognomist, and I wished that he might have possessed as good an acquaintance with medical physiology as he showed himself to have a discrimination with surgical cases. He is in no degree a politician; he is an enemy of sadness; forgiving to his enemies, and perfectly regardless of the flatteries of men. For twenty years he carried on this heroic contest against the powers of Hell, thirteen of these in quietness, but seven publicly, and of these last he had now passed six months victoriously in Elwanger.

Thus armed he undertook in this room all his public proceedings, which he continued daily from early morning till late at night; nay, often till one or two o'clock in the morning. The more physicians there were around him, the bolder he was in causing the different diseases to show themselves; nay, he called upon the unknown physicians themselves. Scarcely do those who are seeking health kneel before him, when he enquires respecting their native country and their complaints; then

his instruction begins in a concise manner, which relates to the steadfastness of faith, and the omnipotent power of the sacred name of Jesus. Then he seizes both hands of the kneeling one, and commands, with a loud and proud voice, the alleged disease to appear. He now seizes the affected part, — that is, in the gout, the foot; in paralysis, the disabled limb and joint; in headache, the head and neck; in those troubled with flatulence, he lays his hand and cloak upon the stomach; in the narrow-chested, upon the heart; in hæmorrhoidal complaints, on the back-bone; in the rheumatic and epileptic he not only lays hold on each arm, but alternately places both hands, and the hands and cloak together, over the whole head. In many cases the disease appears immediately on being commanded, but in many cases he is obliged to repeat the command often, and occasionally ten times before the attack shows itself; in some, but the fewest in number, the command and laying on of hands have no effect. The first class he terms the good and strong-faithed; the second those of hesitating and feeble faith; the last either naturally diseased, or pretendedly so, and unbelieving. All these attacks retreat by degrees, each according to its kind, either very quickly on his command, but sometimes not till the tenth or twentieth time, from limb to limb. In some, the attacks appeared repressed but not extinguished; in others, the commencement of a wearing sickness, with fever and spitting of blood; in others, intumescence, even to suffocation and with violent pains; in others, gout and convulsions.

When he has now convinced the spectator, and thinks that he has sufficiently strengthened the faith and confidence of the sufferer, the patient must expel the attack himself by the simple thought of “Depart from me, in the name of Jesus Christ.” And in this consists the whole method of cure and confirmation which Gassner employs in all kinds of sickness which we call unnatural. Through these he calls forth all the passions. Now anger is apparent, now patience, now joy, now sorrow, now hate, now love, now confusion, now reason, — each carried to the highest pitch.

All take their leave of him, filled with help and consolation, so soon as he has given them his blessing, which he thus administers. He lays the cloak on the head of the patient, grasps the forehead and neck with both hands firmly; speaks silently a very earnest prayer; signs the brow, mouth, and breast of the convalescent with the sign of the cross; and extends to the Catholics the fragment of the

cross to kiss ; orders, according to the form of the sickness, the proper medicines at the apothecary's, the oil, water, powder and herbs, which are consecrated by him every day ; exhorts every one to steadfastness in faith, and permits no one, except those who are affected with defects born with them, to depart without clean hands and countenances full of pleasure. We may now enquire what Herr Gassner calls natural, and what unnatural diseases. For instance, two lame persons appear. One has the *tendo achillis*, or a nerve injured. He is healed, indeed, but the foot remains crooked ; this is a natural lameness. The pious crooked man has no hope of assistance from Herr Gassner. The second has a similar shortness of the foot, but the cause of which was gout, wasting of the limb, or paralysis. This is unnatural lameness ; and will be cured by Herr Gassner as quickly as the name of it is here written.

DEATH FROM SCIRRHUS OF THE STOMACH.

BY D. LEASURE, M. D., OF NEWCASTLE, PA.

About the middle of July last, W. D. Jan ker, aged fifty-one, applied at the office, stating that he had some pain in the stomach at times, of rather a singular character, but otherwise his health was never better. On making minute inquiries, I came to the conclusion that he labored under some of the ordinary forms of indigestion, and recommended care in regard to diet, and dismissed the case from my mind. On the 25th of August he again directed my attention to his case, stating that the seat of the pain had changed, and that he now felt it in the right side. His health, otherwise, was good, and the pain gave no inconvenience except in the evening, about seven or eight o'clock, when after lasting for a couple of hours it would cease, to return at the same period next evening. The pain seemed to be of a neuralgic character ; and as nearly every disease in our district assumed an intermittent type, owing to our being in a malarious district, and in the height of an endemic of intermittent fever, I put him on the use of sulphate of quinine in conjunction with the compound powder of opium and ipecac. This seemed to produce the desired effect as long as he used it, but on stopping the powders the pain returned.

About the first of September he began to complain of a sense of fulness about the rectum, which was not removed on defecation. On examination per anum, I discovered a very full

state of the hemorrhoidal vessels, and as his tongue, which had hitherto been normal, was considerably coated and brown, and the tunica adnata of a yellow hue, I formed the opinion that there was some obstruction in the portal circulation, and under the use of a very mild mercurial course for a few days, these symptoms disappeared, leaving him in his ordinary health, with the exception of his evening exacerbations of pain, which were after a while confined to no particular part, but would be sometimes in one place, and by and by in another, though still seemingly neuralgic in its character.

During all this time his bowels, though sluggish, were not constipated, and when he took mild laxatives, as he several times did, they procured free evacuations of apparently healthy discharges. For the evening pains he took an ordinary dose of sulphate of morphia, with the effect of entirely avoiding his attack of pain. Thus he continued with little alteration till the first of October, having, in the meantime, visited the city of Pittsburgh twice, and Chicago once ; his appetite all the while remaining very good, and digestion apparently unimpaired, his tongue clean, his skin natural, his bowels soluble, with no nausea or sickness of the stomach whatever, his pulse about sixty-four, and of its usual volume, and in short, nothing seemed to manifest itself to create any uneasiness as to his being in any immediate danger.

About the first of October, his symptoms became more urgent, though he did not suffer except from his evening pains, which required larger doses of morphia to avert them. I now made a more critical examination of his case, but with the exception of a dull, obtuse soreness on pressure in the right hypochondriac region, where there seemed some unnatural fulness, I could discover nothing out of the way. At his own request, I gave him twenty grains of calomel, and followed it with castor oil, which produced the ordinary evacuations after such medicines, and about the tenth of October, he seemed much better, so that on the twelfth I left him and was absent from home till the twentieth. On my return I learned that on the thirteenth he had a violent attack of what appeared to be acute peritoneal inflammation, when he called in my friend, Dr. I. H. M. Peelles, who administered for him till my return, after which we attended in concert. On again subjecting his abdomen to examination, we discovered that the colon was very much enlarged or distended with solid matter, from the lower part of the sigmoid flexure the whole

way up to, and along the transverse arch. It required very deep and firm pressure to detect it, as the abdominal walls seemed of unusual thickness. There was some soreness over the sigmoid flexure on deep pressure, but not much.

The appetite was now impaired; the pulse was more frequent, amounting to eighty; the tongue very little furred; still no nausea, unless when he took medicines of an unpleasant taste; and no vomiting. We now ordered enemata of warm water and molasses, which were followed by a copious evacuation of hardened scybala, showing the presence of impaction of the colon. As soon as the bowels were relieved of this portion of scybala, he grew sick at stomach, and vomited; and after this he frequently vomited when he would take medicine, and we relied almost entirely on the use of injections to remove the packing of the colon. I introduced the stomach tube into the rectum, and threw up warm soap-suds till the bowels would retain no more; after which he would pass large portions of the hardened lumps of feces.

At the same time, he was attacked with colicky pains, which we attributed to distension of the recently evacuated portion of the colon by gas. We gave him powdered charcoal for several days, with oil of turpentine, until the charcoal appeared in the evacuations following the injections, intermixed with lumps of fecal matter, when we gave him a free dose of castor oil and turpentine, which brought away what seemed to be the last remnants of the packing, with a large quantity of mucus.

We now fairly expected our patient to get better; but were disappointed.

His general appearance was worse. His pulse grew more frequent, his tongue grew dry, his thirst was intense, his skin dry, his abdomen more tender and swollen, his countenance haggard and its expression *abdominal*, an obstinate hiccup would annoy him for hours, and he ceased to ask for food at all; nevertheless, he drank milk to allay his thirst, which sat well on his stomach, and his bowels had natural discharges about the 8th to the 12th of November, which seemed to be such stools as would follow a milk diet. A large blister placed over the abdomen mitigated such symptoms as indicated peritonitis, but did no further good, though it was afterwards re-applied with no better result. He now vomited every evening between eight and ten o'clock, though he threw up nothing except what he had last drank. He never vomited anything except something he had taken *immediately before*, though he suffered a

great deal from nausea. During all this time he retained full possession of his intellect, unless I except the slight, half-dreamy incoherence, which sometimes resulted from the opiates he took to relieve the pain which was growing worse daily. He had no diarrhoea at any time, and the liver and kidneys seemed to discharge their functions normally. He was now emaciating rapidly, and his vitality gradually giving out, and we despaired of doing anything but give relief from pain. Finally, he began to sink; and in order to keep up vitality till the latest moment, and thus shorten the final stage of sinking, which is apt to be prolonged in abdominal disease, we put him on a free use of brandy and water, which the stomach retained very well until on the 20th of November; he sank in a few hours, and died at eight in the evening.

Autopsy, eighteen hours after death.—On exposing the surface of the abdomen, no unusual appearance was presented to the eye, the bowels not seeming more full than in a state of health. On making pressure, there appeared to be no unusual hardness, except in a region embracing part of the epigastric, the umbilical, the right hypochondriac, and right lumbar regions, where a large solid body resisted downward pressure, but seemed somewhat movable. The skin was of a yellow icterode hue, all over the body, but especially the face. On making an incision in the median line down to the peritoneum, and opening that membrane, the cavity of the abdomen was found to be quite full of a bloody serum, of which about three pints were lifted by the sponge before the examination could proceed. On making cross incisions, and turning back the flaps, I found that the omentum presented a most extraordinary appearance, and adhered extensively to the anterior walls of the cavity. Carefully breaking up the adhesions, I exposed the whole anterior surface of the omentum, which had lost all its peculiar characteristics, and presented the appearance of a dark, reddish-brown granular mass, extending over the whole anterior of the abdomen, and varying in thickness from half an inch to an inch and a half. On turning up this body, the transverse arch of the colon was distinctly shown, but almost entirely enveloped in the same mass which appeared to have substituted itself for the omentum. The ascending arch, from the caput cœcum in its whole length, was also enveloped in the same manner, but more perfectly, so as to make the gut have the appearance of an open tube with inelastic

sides. A few scybalæ were found loose in the cavity of the intestine, but no impaction.

The right anterior surface of the stomach was united to the concave surface of the liver by a dense deposition of the same substance, which had obliterated all semblance of peritoneum, and the convex surface of the liver was adherent in many points by the same material, to the walls of the cavity. About one-third of the anterior surface of the stomach presented a healthy appearance. A large and slightly movable tumor seemed to occupy the stomach itself; but on placing a ligature on the œsophagus near the cardiac orifice, an attempt to remove the stomach entire was found to be almost impossible, and an opening was made into the stomach, in situ, when it was discovered that the interior of that viscus was perfectly healthy, but entirely *empty*, while the pyloric orifice seemed to be distended to its utmost capacity, and retained in that position by the inelastic mass of tumor which surrounded it on all sides, and which was adherent to a portion of the concave surface of the liver, and to the posterior walls of the cavity of the abdomen. With great difficulty I succeeded in tearing up the adhesions, and after placing ligatures upon the duodenum, I removed the entire mass.—The tumor was about three inches in width, and six in length, irregular in its form, and firmly attached at one side to the omental tumor, of which it seemed to be the parent, for it showed signs of having greater age and maturity.—On cutting open this dense tumor, its character was at once made manifest to every professional man present. The scirrhus characteristics were unmistakable. The firm, yellowish striated appearance of the tumor could not be mistaken, and the appearance of numerous true cancer cells, under the microscope, left no possibility of mistake. I have been induced to report this case, because of the absence of vomiting, one of the prominent symptoms usually relied on as characteristic of cancer of the stomach, and the presence of impaction of the colon, by no means a common or necessary complication of that disease. Both these conditions were satisfactorily accounted for on the post-mortem examination. The fixed, patent condition of the pylorus, allowed the contents of the stomach free egress to the bowel below, and the deposition of the cancerous matter around the colon destroyed the peristaltic action of that viscus, and of course favored the accumulation of the contents in the form of scybalæ.—*Cincinnati Med. Obs.*

PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENA.

The mind is often, perhaps usually, active up to the moment of dissolution, even where the bodily appearances presented are those of complete stupor. Drowning persons, afterwards brought to life, have affirmed that their whole previous existence seemed to pass before them in an instant of time. Death by drowning is not a painful process: the memory of those who have been saved seldom retains any unpleasant impression. One patient declared "that the last thing he remembered was looking at the pebbles and weeds at the bottom of the river, with little or no fear of what was about to happen, and no bodily suffering."—With the exception of a few complaints, such as hydrophobia and delirium tremens, this general rule of painless dissolution holds good.—Some have fallen asleep in extreme old age, and never awaked, thus passing away in apparent unconsciousness of their end. It would seem that in the last moments of life neither religious nor any other influences are usually strong.

The sense of weariness appears confined to those functions over which the will has power; all involuntary actions are continued through our resting as well as waking hours. Sleep "accumulates the nervous force, which is gradually exhausted" during the day; but these are words only, for who can define or explain the "nervous force"? Darwin's axiom, "that the essential part of sleep is the suspension of volition," still holds good, and is accepted as satisfactory. Talking and moving in sleep, though apparently phenomena irreconcilable with this theory, are not so in reality; for there are degrees of sleep, and these things only occur where the slumber is imperfect. It may be urged, again, that the mere absence of volition would not produce that insensibility to sight and sound which is the characteristic of the sleeper. But few persons are aware how much the will is concerned in the reception of impressions on the senses. One who is absorbed in reading or writing will not hear words addressed to him in the ordinary tone, though their physical effect on the ear must be the same as usual. Dreams are inexplicable: Lord Brougham suggested that they took place only in the momentary state of transition from sleep to waking; but facts contradict this theory, since persons will mutter to themselves, and utter inarticulate sounds, indicative of dreaming, at intervals of several minutes. The common puzzle as to how dreams apparently long

can pass in a moment of time presents no difficulty to the psychologist. Life is not measured by hours and days, but by the number of new impressions received; and the limit to these is in the world without us, not in the constitution of our minds. To a child, whose imagination is constantly excited by new objects, twelve months seem a much longer period than to a man. As we advance in life, time flies faster. The butterfly, living for a single season, may really enjoy a longer existence than the tortoise, whose years exceed a century. Even between the busy and the idle among human beings there exists a similar difference, though less strongly marked.

POISONING BY OPIUM.

BY JOHN T. PLUMMER, M. D., OF RICHMOND, IND.

On the morning of the third of Seventh Month, our community was startled by the intelligence of the sudden death of Dr. Wm. B. Smith, one of our oldest and ablest physicians. He had been subject for some time past, to abdominal pains of a severe character, which he called colic, and for the relief of which, it appears he had been accustomed to take large doses of morphine or its salts. He never weighed the portions; but his young partner, Dr. Test, supposes they averaged one grain each.

This final paroxysm of suffering had existed several days; but on the second of this month, the pain was of so aggravated a character, that according to his wife's account, he was induced to take within one and a half hours (from twelve o'clock till half past one o'clock P. M.), two teaspoonfuls of ether, two teaspoonfuls of laudanum, and two large doses of morphine or its sulphate. Other portions appear to have been taken in the forenoon. At about half past seven o'clock in the evening, his wife, finding that she could not arouse him, sent for Dr. Wilson and myself.

At this period (six or seven hours from the taking of the narcotic), his symptoms were as follows: Pulse very slow, and intermitting irregularly; eyes immovably fixed, dull, injected, and death-like, with *moderately* contracted pupils (perhaps one-tenth of an inch in diameter); respiration laborious, and stertorous for a few inspirations, and then suspended for one and a quarter to one and a half minutes, by the watch; surface of the body everywhere warm; finger ends (nails) dark purple; universal re-

laxation of the voluntary muscles, with the exception of a transient contraction of the fingers at our first examination; and a total insensibility to all external impressions. The breath smelt strongly of ether, blended with an odor resembling that of opium.

In this condition of things, little could be expected from remedial measures. As an evidence of the complete abolition of all excitability of the surface, I applied a "hissing hot" table-knife to the skin, without the slightest indication of vitality being manifested. No response was obtained from the diligent application of ice and ice-cold water to the head and breast, nor of mustard and capsicum to other parts. Not the faintest effort at deglutition was perceived, on the closest inspection, during the remainder of his life.

Galvanism was thought of; but the case was considered so near hopeless, that we did not try it: perhaps it would have been better if we had; yet in more favorable cases, even this agent has failed. But, notwithstanding the discouraging aspects of the case, we were willing to test the susceptibility of the stomach to remedial agents. From the length of time which had elapsed since the imbibition of the narcotics, emetics, it was supposed, would be unavailable; and whether anything could be got into the stomach, on account of the unimpressible state of the muscles of deglutition, was questionable. Availing ourselves of Dr. Anderson's plan of treatment, we dissolved about one and two-thirds grains of extract of belladonna in a teaspoonful of water, and passed it carefully into the mouth. As already stated, no effort at swallowing was induced.

In less than an hour after this dose was given, the pulse became steady, and beat at the rate of 144 strokes in a minute, with about a natural fulness. And this continued to be the condition of the pulse till near the time the Doctor expired. A second dose was given an hour after the first. Shortly afterward, the pupils were thought to be slightly expanded; but, after the third dose (two hours from the first), the dilatation became more and more manifest, till the pupils were about one-fifth of an inch in diameter. We gave no more of the extract. The pupils continued dilated to this degree, even after death, up to the eve of burial; and they were at no time affected by light, during our attendance.

As there was no deglutition, did the solution of belladonna glide into the stomach mechanically? (The patient lay on his back.) Or was it retained in the mouth, so as to make its

impression there? Or was the change in the pulse, and the dilatation of the pupils attributable to the belladonna? The conditions of the pulse and pupils were certainly *sequences* of the use of the extract; but were they the effects of it? There was no indication that led us to suspect that the solution passed into the trachea; for the respiration continued with little variation in character from that described already, until just before dissolution took place, at half-past twelve o'clock at night, when the approach of that event was announced by the "death-rattle."

Dr. Smith was forty-eight years of age at the time of his decease. He commenced the study of medicine, under my tuition, in the year 1828. He attended one course of lectures in the Ohio Medical College; but never graduated. He for some time taught school while he prosecuted his medical studies; and at the expiration of three years commenced the practice of medicine at Raysville, Henry county, in this State. Shortly after, at my recommendation, he returned to Richmond, where he continued to practise during the remainder of his life.

This is the only case of opiate poisoning I have any recollection of in my practice, in which the pupils were not contracted to the utmost possible degree; that is, to almost obliteration; or as the books have it, to the size of a pin-head. I need not call the attention of the experienced practitioner to other peculiarities in the case. The physical constitution of the patient, his habits, the disease, the ether, the belladonna taken, would exert a modifying effect upon the influence of the first narcotics taken.—*Cincinnati Med. Obs.*

Influence of Consanguinity on the Offspring.—Dr. Rilliet, of Geneva, states that he is investigating the subject of the influence of marriage between relatives on their offspring. He delays publishing the whole of his researches till he has rendered them more complete; but, in the meantime, he gives the following results at which he has arrived.

The lowering of the vital power, as a result of marriage between near relatives, is manifested by results varying in frequency, form, and degree. The following is an enumeration of them in their logical order, though not in that of their relative frequency. 1. Absence of conception. 2. Delay of conception. 3. Imperfect conception (abortions). 4. Incomplete products of conception (monstrosities). 5. Chil-

dren with imperfect physical and moral constitution. 6. Children especially liable to diseases of the nervous system, in the following order of frequency—epilepsy, imbecility or idiocy, deaf-dumbness, paralysis, various cerebral disorders. 7. Children predisposed to diseases connected with the scrofulo-tubercular diathesis. 8. Children which die at an early age in a larger proportion than those born under other conditions. 9. Children which, if they live beyond early infancy, as less able than others to resist disease and death. The health of the family of the married persons, and of these individuals themselves, exercises a certain influence on the degree and kind of depression of the vital force in their children. It is probable that all the deviations from the laws just laid down are due to the health of the predecessors, as well as to the dynamic conditions in which the relatives are at the time of sexual intercourse. Thus it is incontestable—1. That all the children in a family may escape the effect of consanguinity, but this is rare. 2. That in one family some may be attacked, while others escape. 3. That the form of disease varies in those who are attacked. Thus they are not *all* epileptic, deaf and dumb, paralytic, or scrofulous; but they are variously influenced. For example, there may be observed, in one family, an epileptic, an imbecile, a child only physically and morally retarded, and another who will succumb rapidly to a disease which any other child would have resisted. In another family, there will be two idiots or imbeciles, and two healthy children. In a third, there will be one child with congenital paralysis, and several only scrofulous, &c. If certain families appear entirely to escape the action of consanguinity, it is to be feared that its direful effects will be manifested in succeeding generations, ending in the annihilation of the family.

Although no one can claim the priority of an idea of which it is difficult to determine the origin, it is not uninteresting to call to mind the opinions of legislators, philosophers, and theologians on marriage between relations. By the law of Moses, marriages between relations were forbidden as far as the third degree. In Sparta and Athens, marriages between relations of the second degree were, indeed, permitted by the law; but Socrates, reasoning on physiological grounds, raised his voice against a practice which he believed to be prejudicial to the healthy propagation of the race. The Roman laws interdicted marriage between all relations to the third degree; and even, though

less determinedly, between those of the fourth degree. Saint Augustine, Gregory the Great, and the Council of Trent, also interdicted marriages between relations of the second degree. In Protestant countries, the marriage of relations beyond the second degree is, in general, not forbidden; and it is, consequently, more easy to observe the effects of marriages of this kind in families where conjugal fidelity is conjoined with the facility of union between near relatives. — *L'Union Medicale*, May 24th, 1856.

COMMUNICATIONS.

EMPIRICISM ENCOURAGED BY THE CLERGY.

BY A. M. DENSMORE.

By virtue of our position taken in the "leading editorial" of the first number of "The Medical World," the following remarks upon an article in the eighth number, headed "EMPIRICISM ENCOURAGED BY THE CLERGY," are submitted for the attention of those interested.

It is said that the first way in which clergymen give such encouragement, is "by furnishing certificates of the efficacy of *nostrums* to the inventors or proprietors." And although it is allowed that they take this action in good faith and in view of having been helped by such preparations as they recommend, it is urged that, "*ignorant, as the rest of the world, of the nature of disease and the principles of physiology*, they do not know that what cures them, may kill another with a similar complaint."

Now granting this latter part of the paragraph to be true, what does it indicate?—what does it *prove*? It merely shows that these clergymen *cannot know the future*. No great fault of theirs, is it? It is hard work to prove a *negative* any time;—much *harder* work to *know* a future negative fact, and rather hard to be required to know it before being considered at liberty to give statements of facts that they *do* know, and the general knowledge of which they may consider to be important to the people. It would seem to be the argument of this part of the article in question, that because clergymen are not possessed of this immense amount of negative knowledge, they should *refrain from making public* the *positive* knowledge they may have, regarding what will cure troublesome complaints that physicians have been unable to relieve. Is this right? Is it

right for a minister of the glorious Gospel,—for the sake of which Christ died, and martyrs suffered,—*to hide their light under a bushel*? No, no: not so. Better that any system should go down, whatever may have been its past value, if it cannot bear the *light of truth* and the weight of facts.

Thus far, the positions of the writer of that article have been tacitly allowed, and it is only his *argument* deducted from them that had been met. That much being done, let us now examine the *basis* of that argument. Let us see if the basis be not as faulty as the structure put upon it. That basis is: *that clergymen are as ignorant as the rest of the world regarding the nature of disease and the principles of physiology*. Is this a basis of *fact*? Is it defensible?—or is it glaringly erroneous and positively untrue? Are clergymen as ignorant of these matters as the rest of the world? Is their superior education of no avail in the most important worldly items of existence?

It would seem that a very little careful thought must show this basis to be as unsound as the argument built upon it;—as unsound as is the position that truth and wisdom should be withheld from the world for the world's good.

A little farther on in the article referred to, comes the position that in fostering quackery by recommending secret remedies, injustice is done to society, and that to society, clergymen so doing, should be held responsible. Assenting to this position, what does it indicate? Does it mean that recommending secret remedies is fostering quackery? It would seem so: the language seems to mean that undoubtedly. Then comes the question: *what are secret remedies? what remedies have their nature most concealed from the persons who take them*. Are they those whose names in plain English bear evidence of their nature and leading component parts;—or are they those which are named in characters and terms that nine patients out of ten could not interpret, even if they were plainly and legibly made, instead of being, perhaps, by comparative necessity, hurriedly put upon paper, and despatched to the nearest apothecary's for fulfilment by a person generally utterly unknown to the party for whom the compound is intended? Perhaps that person may be an inexperienced youth who reads the marks wrongly, and puts up a compound accordingly; perhaps it may be an elderly, careful old gentleman, who takes a half hour of precious time to

decipher the marks, while the patient languishes for want of the proceeds,—mayhap dies while they are being delayed to wait upon a fashionable lady customer in search of some delicate item for the complexion. He who trusts to a secret remedy is indeed at the mercy of another, either God or man, but is not the *physician's remedy quite as secret* as the proprietary medicines sometimes elegantly termed “nostrums?” Are there no nostrums recommended by physicians of the oldest schools? Is there no misplaced trust in secret remedies administered by order of a physician?—are there no parents who weep over the forms of their first-born and only children, with the bitter, maddening thought, burning both heart and brain, that death came in at the door with a head-strong, harsh physician, whom they dared not disobey lest they should be amenable to their own fears that perhaps they had themselves destroyed their darling? Many such there are—more perhaps than is realized by those who have not, as the clergy have, opportunity to visit and freely converse with all within their circle who follow friends to the narrow home of a chilling grave. To clergymen, hearts closed to all others, are freely opened;—to their ears bitter thoughts are often communicated that none others know, and circumstances are detailed that unmistakably betoken either carelessness or ignorance in some physicians even of the old school and profession, thoroughly educated by authority, and ranking high as skilful men. That some, and perhaps many clergymen, sometimes throw their weight of influence in favor of a proprietary medicine, is, of course, undeniable, and if the facts are as they set forth, under their deliberately placed signatures, such a course on their part seems also justifiable by every principle of right, and not only justifiable, but decidedly *called for*. If proprietary medicines have cured them or relieved them after physician's remedies have failed to do so, why is it not right and just, and indeed the only honorable way for them to make known the fact for the good of those suffering like themselves? Not that we would argue that proprietary medicines generally, will always effect such results, but if they *sometimes* do, it is certainly right, *when* they do, upon successive persons, to let the world have the attested facts.

The circumstance that many clergymen do find themselves called upon to give their testimony in favor of proprietary or patent medicine, is perhaps somewhat significant, but it

should rather induce the regular physician to produce a remedy superior to such, than to blame the clergyman for giving testimony to facts as he found them.

And now of the second manner in which it is charged that the clergy aided in producing quackery, by *interfering with people* in the choice of their family physician. The charge is wanting in support *either in general fact* or in *statement of cases*;—an illustration of how the system *would work*, merely being given. This charge would be hardly worth noticing on account of its want of support, were it not that it affords a favorable opportunity to ask *how* such interference, in case it existed, would tend to produce quackery or empiricism, not only out of the profession, but *in* it. Such effect does not seem a proper or a likely consequence of such interference, even in case the interference were a fact instead of a fancy, built perhaps by an isolated instance of meddling, which is the exception, and not the general case.

And this leads again to the subject of the clergy's ignorance of medical treatment and physiology. It is respectfully submitted and confidently asserted that, as a body, they are not amenable to this charge. Their habit of visiting the sick would, of itself, give them wide acquaintance with almost every form of illness, and the necessity of their visiting people who are under charge of different physicians, and different classes of physicians, give them wide and ample opportunity, better than any others, even *doctors themselves enjoy*, to *compare* the success of *different methods of treatment* in the same complaints, especially when an epidemic is raging, so that cases they observe are nearly parallel, excepting in the treatment they receive. This experience, if they had no other, would free them of the charge of ignorance of the effects of medical treatment and medical science.

And in view of all this, the influence of their position, their generally acknowledged and appreciated aim to do what is morally right and for the best interests of their people, it is a matter of no *slight significance* to see them take the position they have, regarding proprietary medicines in many cases, nor is it a matter of surprise that the medical profession seek to rebuke them for so doing by every means in their power, and seek also to prevent them from so doing by attending them and their families during illness without the usual fee, and by making such gratuitous attendance a plea for a reason why the clergy should not

countenance any other medical treatment than that which physicians prescribe. But the integrity of the clergy is above such considerations. They are grateful for services rendered, and for the good-will which they consider dictates the offering, but they decline to accept any thing in the nature of a bribe, however in directly or covertly offered. They must remain free to say what they think, and proclaim what they know to be true, when the knowledge promises to effect a good that other means have been unable to effect. One other point, and we have done. The position was taken that the clergy aid and abet quackery. Due inquiry into the subject may reveal the fact that statements of their experience, regarding patent medicines, are any thing but such aiding and abetting. When harsh terms are used, persons using them should make certain that they are not bringing weapons into the field to be used against themselves. "Quackery" is now a term quite appropriate to the practice recently fully sanctioned by the medical profession, of blood-letting in profusion, and other practices which the celebrated Dr. Rush acknowledged as having assisted in not only "*multiplying disease*," but as "*increasing the bills of mortality*." As Time goes on, it may not be many years ere "Quackery" will also be generally applied to the system which clergymen are now so severely *censured for not upholding, to the exclusion of stating the naked truth* regarding other means of relief and cure, by which they have been benefited.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER V.—BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Nervous Diseases Numerous — The People Imitate the Minister — Mesmerism — Spiritualism — A Suspicious Temper — Faith, a Good Medicine — Eating Too Much — Evils produced by a Nervous Clergyman upon his Family — Remedy for Nervous Diseases — Illustration in an Accommodating Clergyman — *How the Nerves Act* — Action of the Mind on the Body — Cause of Traits of Character — Some Never Change — Others Always — Dr. Abernethy's Prescription — Value of Health — Causes which Destroy Peace — Small Salaries — Pay by Orders — Life made up of Little Things — Much that is Pleasant in the Life of a Good Clergyman.

Imaginary diseases are a numerous class, and of these the clergyman has his full share. We do not mean to imply that they are confined to clergymen. By no means. The progeny is *Protean*, and found among all classes of men and women. They are distressing anywhere ;

more disastrous when in the church ; but more still to be deplored, when infesting the ministry. Such was the case with the *minds* of many of the clergy of New England in the days of the "Salem witchcraft." That great delusion was hurried forward by the diseased mind and dis-tempered imagination of the most eminent ministers of the gospel. The people always imitate the clergy. Thus, when "the sons of Aaron" became corrupt, "the people soon abhorred the sacrifice." Thus all the abominations of every hierarchy have crept in through worldliness, sensuality, and spiritual pride.

A little incident occurred recently, which serves to verify the declaration, that the people imitate the minister. A physician of some note, and of more than ordinary learning, pronounced a word incorrectly. Some one present remarked that, that word was differently pronounced. "I always," said the physician, "take my pronunciation of words from my minister. I pronounced it as he does." A minister who has preached twenty years in the same parish, leaves his "image and superscription" upon that people. You may see it in the very shrug of the shoulder, and the manner of their speaking. They imitate him as naturally, as did his generals, "the wry neck of Alexander, the Great."

We will *first* advert to some of the imaginary diseases of the *mind*. In the so-called "Miller excitement," a part of the uneducated ministers, of some denominations, were verily befooled by the imagination. Never sprite, or witch, or demon, played more fantastic gambols with its infatuated and deluded victims. They were, indeed, led through both "dry" and wet "places, seeking rest and finding none."

The evil might have been borne tolerably well, had it been confined to the uneducated. But it was not. We knew a clergyman, a good scholar, once a tutor in a New England College, then settled in one of the "sunny places of Zion," completely bewitched by these vagaries of the imagination. We met him in the street, and he urged us to get him an opportunity to preach in a certain meeting-house. We demurred, and endeavored to reason him out of his delusion. It was, indeed, like "beating the air!" and whenever he was about to meet us afterwards, he always shunned us, and "passed by on the other side." He evidently considered us "reprobate."

There are many cases of imaginary disease where they do not come up to such a pitch as to wholly dethrone reason — and, in these cases,

* Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

where reason is not dethroned, a noisy, infatuated, suspicious demon sits down upon the throne *with* reason, and they *together* exhibit strange phantoms. Thus, we remember, many years since, hearing a clergyman pray so loudly that the over-strained vocal chords lost their tension and refused to act. But just before he thus choked up, and was compelled to stop, a good old "mother in Israel," who stood near him (for it was at a conference meeting), gently patted him upon the shoulder, with the following timely remark, "Don't, dear, *scream so*. The Almighty ai'nt deaf."

Paracelsus Theophrastus Bombastus, the discoverer of mercury, and the first who used it for medicinal purposes (which was then called *quack salver*, instead of quicksilver, as now, from which fact the name of *quack* in medicine has been derived), believed, that "there is in man an imagination, which really effects and brings to pass things that did not before exist."

The mesmeric feats, the electro-biological jugglery, and the spiritual rappings of our own times, would not have surprised Paracelsus any more than they do persons of common sense now. Such sublimated moonshine and terrestrial nonsense would have been as well adapted to *his* mind, as it is to his wondering brethren among us. "'Tis but to *fancy* it," as Bonaface said of his ale, and the work is done.

Take "Mesmerism." No fallacy, or deception was ever more thoroughly exposed, and refuted than were the pretensions of Mesmer and his coadjutors, by the "commission" appointed by the king of France to investigate this matter; of which commission, *Dr. Franklin*, then the American Minister, at France, was one. So thorough was the exposure, and so complete the discomfiture, that the *wonder* lost all its charm, and Mesmerism sunk into degradation, only to be revived in our times.

But within a short time after that, the delusion of "Perkins' Tractors," arose in Connecticut, and passed through America, over to England, and on to the Continent, and wrought wonders sufficient to amass a fortune for their distinguished discoverer. Yet any man of common sense knows that two ten-penny nails possess as much virtue as those "metallic Tractors."

The same imagination often works in the minds of clergymen, leading them to *suspect* the want of friendship and kind feelings in more or less of their parishioners. And hence, in the language of Blair, "by suspecting and hating, they incur suspicion and hatred. By suspecting others to be their enemies, they will,

of course, make them such." We have no doubt many a minister has lost the confidence and good-will of some of his best people, and even incurred their hatred by thus brooding over *imaginary* evils.

The same distempered imagination has often led clergymen to pronounce *converted*, and urge into the church, many who were only awakened, or excited, or at most "stony ground, or way-side hearers." This has been no small reproach to vital piety — no small scandal to real "godliness," as they have soon manifested that their "conversion," in the language of Whitfield, "was but some of the minister's bungling work." It was never the work of God.

We can name but one more of these *imaginary delusions*, (not for want of numbers, for their "name is legion," but for want of room), and that is modern *Spiritualism*. This is twin sister of the whole tribe. All consists in a diseased mind; but not so far diseased but that, like some in the days of the Apostles, who "used curious arts," they cause strange mutations, and play well as *magicians*. When these, like their predecessors, become Christians, like them, they will "burn" their spiritual "books before all men."

What renders all these delusions and vagaries the more to be deplored is, none of them are *new*. In this respect, "the thing that is, is that which has been."

Plato, an Athenian philosopher, the pupil of Socrates, more than 350 years before the Christian era, had his *clairvoyant*, his *slave*, whom, when he wished to amuse his friends, he threw into the mesmeric state, and sent over Athens to look into his neighbors' parlors, and kitchens, and report what they were doing. Though the present age has its full share of *mummery*, yet, if we imagine that we excel those of bygone times in anything of this kind, we are greatly deceived. As with the "lost arts," so is it with the lost and forgotten mental "inventions," and delusions which "men have sought out;" they have been more numerous than at present.

The real cause of all these imaginary notions, or delusions, we will give in due time.

We have a simple prescription for these diseased minds. It is to take a few grains of faith in God, a scruple of the Saviour's meekness and forbearance, and a full draught of benevolence to all mankind.

We now turn to the imaginary diseases of clergymen, as it respects the *body*. Here, also, they come in for a full share with others.

A clergyman who loves good eating, and (as was fashionable till recently) good liquor, too (we mean no reflection, but simply as all drank); who is unwilling to go much abroad; in a word, who presents a fine specimen of loving indolence, is the most liable of all men to have imaginary sickness. We knew an instance of this in a young clergyman, just licensed. He was boarding at home. His good mother would get him up, breakfast him, and send him off four miles to preach.

When once set in motion, like a good clock, he would run well — ride fast — preach excellently, and come home, at night, in fine spirits. As he advanced in age, his sister used to sing to him, on a journey, to keep his spirits up, lest he should die before he reached his journey's end: as David played off the evil spirit from Saul, so did she from him.

We have, in vivid recollection, another clergyman who was most sorely afflicted with imaginary disease. He was a source of great anxiety and trouble to his first wife, who was a healthy woman. Upon her came the weight of responsibility in taking the charge of a large family. She was accustomed to say "the imaginary sickness of her husband caused her more care than all the children." We once, in after life, when he had been cured of *imaginary* evils by *real* ones, heard him relate the following: "In my younger days, I was sorely afflicted with a *nervous* disease. The blood would settle under my finger-nails, and my hands become cold up to the elbows. Every one would suppose me dying. One night, my wife had been up with me several times, and thus broken of her rest, night after night, until, at length, she refused to get up again. 'The old man,' which had not been wholly 'put off', then beginning to work, I removed to the side of the bed, as far off as possible, there expecting to die; and, thought I, she will by and by find me dead; and then, I reckon, she will be sorry she did not get up for me. *But I didn't die that time.*"

At the age of forty years, this man lost his wife. He was left with a numerous family; and married again, in a few months, a most estimable young lady, but a child, being but twenty years of age. This wife was delicate, extremely feeble, more nervous, if possible, than even her husband had been, and he was obliged to *put off* his imaginary diseases. He had no opportunity to cherish them. He verified the lines of the poet, for he had that disease which,

———"Real pain,
And that alone could cure."

It is a remedy somewhat similar that we would propose for all clergymen who are afflicted with imaginary sickness. It is to go to work. "Up and be doing." If you wish to know whether the blood circulates, give it a trial; visit your distant parishioners on foot; lay hold of the axe, the saw, the hoe; open the air-passages to the northern blasts; you will soon see if the blood circulates, and the lungs play, and the heart beats.

Are you afraid of poverty? — go and visit the poorest, the most destitute family of your congregation. See their wretched condition. No bread to eat, no clothes to wear, scarcely any bed to sleep in. If you cannot find such in the country, come to the city. You may then return contented with your lot. Yea, be ready to say, "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?"

We venture to suggest to clergymen one moral remedy. Is not too much of their time occupied in a controversial manner and a sectarian spirit? And may not this tend to the diminution of health? Would not cherishing the principle of the "new commandment" have a favorable influence upon health, as well as upon the moral feelings? To "contend earnestly for the faith" is an imperative duty, and a reasonable attachment to the forms and ceremonies of our own church, is right. But, it is an important question to decide, as to how much of a clergyman's time is to be spent in making fine sermons, and in spinning theological criticisms. The present times seem to demand something like the course pursued by Christ, to "*go about doing good.*" He who would benefit men, must go where they are, and he who would silence opposition, and "compel" men to come in to the gospel feast, must do it by cherishing and by exhibiting to them a spirit of love. "Molasses catches more flies than vinegar." The spirit of love has a happy influence upon its possessor's health and his social power. Let the clergy generally engage in carrying the gospel in its consolation and succor to the poor, the afflicted, and the imprisoned, and it would invigorate the body and nerve the mind. It would enhance their usefulness generally and elevate some from feeble dwarfs, to strong and full-grown men.

As illustrating the above, let me give the following. We have all seen the effect related as having been produced by one of our New England clergymen, who beat the men of the West in *chopping wood*; the result of which was, when he told them, "I can beat you just as much in *preaching*," that *they all came to*

hear him preach. The people love a genial man, who can be one among them, in all innocent amusements, and in the common affairs of life.

The effect of *asperity* in a clergyman is well illustrated in the following story, the scene of which was laid in the State of "steady habits," and the events of which transpired there, several years since. Two clergymen were settled in their youth, in contiguous parishes. The congregation of the one had become very much broken and scattered, while that of the other remained large and strong. At a ministerial gathering, (both of these pastors being D. D's.) Dr. A. said to Dr. B., "Brother, how has it happened that, while I have labored as diligently as you have, and preached better sermons, and more of them, my parish has been scattered to the winds, and yours remains strong and unbroken?"

Dr. B. facetiously replied, "O, I'll tell you, brother. When you go fishing, you first get a great rough-pole for a handle, to which you attach a large cod-line, and a great hook, and twice as much bait as the fish can swallow. With these accoutrements, you dash up to the brook, and throw in your hook, with, *There, bite, you dogs.* Thus, you scare away all the fish. When I go fishing, I get a little switching pole, a small line, and just such a hook and bait as the fish can swallow. Then I creep up to the brook, and gently slip them in, and *is twitch 'em out, twitch 'em out, till my basket I full.*"

This is a sufficient illustration of what we mean by using, as above, the old adage of "molasses and vinegar."

We have named some of the effects of the mind upon the body, through the agency of the nerves. Why does a mental emotion make "the mouth water," when food is anticipated? Why does it make the tears flow from the lachrymal gland, when objects of grief are presented?

How these, and a thousand other effects are produced, we know not. This is a question which has been, and still remains unanswered, though it has been agitated from the earliest ages among philosophers, metaphysicians, and physiologists. *Haller* investigated all the theories that had been put forth, upon the action of the nerves; or the influence of them through the mind, or of the mind through them, and concluded that the nerves operated through the medium of a very subtle fluid, permeating their cavities and called *spirit*.

What *Haller* called *spirit*, *Von Helmont*

denominated *Aracheus*. *Stahl* called the same *anima*, and *Hunter*, *materia vita*. All these meant, that which we call the *vital principle*; and it must be confessed, we have but a very imperfect knowledge of it, even now, in the latter half of the nineteenth century. *Hunter* considered this invisible spirit to be added to inert matter, as magnetism is to iron, and that it bears some analogy to electricity and magnetism. *Hartley* thought all the action of mind upon matter was produced by an elastic ether; or, by the "vibrations" of infinitesimal particles of the brain and nerves. *Newton* conjectured the same. *Le Gallois*, a very learned Frenchman, believed there was a secretion of the nerves themselves, by which their power is transmitted, and through the medium of which the brain and spinal marrow perform their action upon the animal body.

In the midst of all these opinions, after a somewhat careful study of the nerves, and *nervous* diseases, and of various temperaments, as well as the reciprocal effects of the mind upon the body, and of the body upon the mind, it seems most probable to us, that nervous energy, by a wise arrangement of the Creator, (yet secret to science) depends upon the principle of galvanism, or modified electricity.

The nerves are the telegraphic wires of the body by which the brain sends out its messages to the various corporeal organs, and receives back reports from the external world. If the telegraphic wire be broken, the machine will not work. So if the brain, or the nerves running from it, be disorganized, or broken, the animal machine will not work—the organs of the body will not act. "The wheel is broken at the cistern, and the pitcher at the fountain," and the man is laid aside.

Considering the curious construction and operation of the nerves, and of the mind upon the body, and the body upon the mind, we need not be surprised at the number of nervous diseases and the singular phenomena which take place among men.

We may see, from the remarks already made, the cause of some peculiarities of character. We do not mean that character is ever formed by such physical properties, that every man is not responsible for his own. But we do mean that there is a wide difference in men, *by nature*, as to their temperament, or mental and bodily qualities. Thus, one is quick to decide, to make up his opinion; and when he has done it, he is "fixed as in a frost." Move him! you might as well think to move Ararat.

Shoot arrows, either of truth or error, at him; they make no impression. They rebound as from the hide of the rhinoceros. There are no seams in his sheathing, no joints in his armor. He has taken his side, and he took it, never to retreat. He is prepared "to stand,"—stand against every shaft. He has anchored, and never means to let his anchor drag. No matter how long, or how short the time he was in fixing down, he is moored forever. He has clenched his hand, and like the grasp of the spider upon the poor fly, who happens to be his victim, even death does not unclinch it. In common phraseology, "he has *got kinked*, and all creation can't unkink him." He glories in never changing. No windows exist in his mind to let in the light. No reasoning is argument with him. He *knows* he is right; and all we would say to such an one, is to repeat the remark of an old Scotch divine, "It behooveth a Scotsman to be *right*, for if he be *wrong*, he be forever, and eternally wrong."

Another seems to be, constitutionally, all vacillation. Yesterday he was here; to-morrow he will be there; and the place, or the opinion, in which you left him last, is no pledge of where, or how, you will find him next. In the morning, he was pursuing this opinion, and he *thought* he was right; at evening, he has imbibed another, and he now *knows* he is right. The opinion of the last man he conversed with is his opinion, until he converses with another.

"He is to nothing fixed
But love of change."

He wishes to remove from one parish to another, at least, as often as once in two years. A permanent residence is no *home* for him. He was destined for "a bird of passage;" and causes real, or imaginary, for such removal, are never wanting. The death of a *good* deacon, or the asperity of a bad one, and the alienation of a few who were once friendly, are with him sufficient cause for change. Indeed, change seems bound in his nature, and one might as well think to fix the weathercock to one point, as to bind him to one opinion or place. This love of change influences his whole conduct; and this seems to be so inherent in his nature, that it cannot be ferreted out.

Now, these traits of character are with some men constitutional. We knew a clergyman who had, at different times, belonged to three or four denominations of Christians. He said, "his brethren called these changes but *he* called them changes only from glory to glory."

Of the former, we may say they usually remain inflexible, till some terrible storm comes and blows them up by the roots, and they die suddenly. They may be compared to a beautiful apple, which looks fair and red without, but which is rotten at the core. When the disease appears upon the surface, the whole is gone. They sink at once; "the whole heart being faint, and the whole head sick."

The latter may be said to die by piece-meal, or by inches; or, as *Dean Swift* said, when he looked up and saw the dead branches of a tree—"I shall be like that tree—I *shall die at the top first*." They are whirled in perpetual eddies, till by little and little, of disease, of both mind and body, they finally fall off.

For the former, we would prescribe alternative doses of the molifying oil of gospel tenderness, and of fellow feeling with all men, "specially of the household of faith," and of that "charity" which "thinketh no evil, and is kind." For the latter, ten grains each, morning and evening, of the ingredients composing the Christian armor, as enumerated in Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians.

We think these will prove as efficacious as Dr. *Abernethey's* celebrated prescription to the hosts of *dyspeptic* patients who were accustomed to throng his office. It was this, one and the same to each, "Go home, sir, read my book at page —, eat your food slowly, and live like a Christian."

There are one or two thoughts connected with this subject which claim further attention.

The health of a clergymen is often injured by the losses, perplexities, and trials into which he is thrown by the indiscreet, unwise, niggardly, and sometimes, cruel conduct of his parishioners. If he is of that nervous, sensitive diathesis, (to use a physician's phrase), which we have been considering, almost any, like the following events would prove injurious to his health.

We knew a clergyman, long since entered into his rest, who, under a wild-fire religious excitement (so called) in which certain young girls, under the guidance of some itinerant holder-forth exorcists, "or vagabond Jews," took it upon them to admonish him that he was a "formalist and hireling; a blind leader of the blind." Some of them were very young, not more than a dozen years old. The good pastor had labored faithfully, "in season and out of season," and seen but little fruit of his labors. Being of a sensitive and nervous temperament, their reproaches were to him, as "vinegar to nitre," disturbing his peace, ren-

dering him miserable and sick. The best remedy for their visions and impertinent vociferations would have been a faithful application of that little instrument which Solomon recommends as very successful in driving "foolishness from the heart of a child."

We have known a clergyman disqualified from study, and really made sick, by the niggardly and deceitful dealing of one of his deacons. It was by simply deceiving in a load of wood. It was not the value of the wood, but the thought, on his part, of being overreached in a case where he could not complain; or, if he did, where the last error would be worse to him than the first; and, on the part of the deacon, that he should have a professor and an officer in his church who was devoid of common honesty, and willing to commit sacrilege. Had this pious man been less pious, and possessed of a different temperament, he would have shaken off this "viper and felt no harm." In this respect, it seems, sometimes, desirable to be *thick-skinned*, and to partake largely of the properties of a "Boanergies," but forbearance and charity are more comely for a Christian pastor.

We knew another clergyman, who had the misfortune, or the good fortune, to be, like Christ's early disciples, from the humble walks of life; his father having been a basket-maker. When (as was customary in those days,) a load of basket-stuff was brought along for sale, in the absence of the good man, some of his parishioners would purchase it and order it to be left at the front door of his residence; there, on his return, he would find it, and weep over the depravity of his people for the deed. A little more firmness of nerve, or of that independence which prompted the reply of some of the apostles, when the serjeants said, "the council had sent to let them go; they have beaten us openly uncondemned; and now, do they thrust us out privily? Nay, verily; but let them come themselves, and fetch us out." Or, of that feeling which Paul conveyed to the chief captain, when he inquired, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?" or, that which led him on another occasion to say, "I appeal unto Cæsar," would have answered a better purpose. Many a man would have thanked them for the basket-stuff for kindling-wood.

We also remember a case somewhat similar, where a portion of the people did not manifest a disposition to "pluck out their own eyes and give them to" their pastor, because they loved him so much. A member of the parish, who had

been absent, on a voyage, but not long enough to forget the right, on his return, was soon visited by a neighbor, who wished to enlist him against the minister. "Why," said he, "the minister is the worst man living — he will not even attend a funeral of one of his opposers." The cool reply of the sea-captain was, "Well, he *is* very different from me. If you had used me as you have him, I should *rejoice* to attend all your funerals."

Another cause of ill health to clergymen is found in the scantiness of their salaries, and the non-payment of even the small pittance usually promised. People often settle pastors, calculating that they shall grow, so that they shall advance upon the salary. But it too generally turns out, on their part, as was stated by a certain lady respecting the *growth* of clergymen. She said, "they had settled several young ministers, calculating that they would *grow*, but they grew backwards, and she hoped, when they settled another, he would be a *full grown* one."

In many parishes, the salary is absolutely too small for the minister to live upon, even if he received it promptly. But, in addition to not receiving it when due, they have a way of paying it *by orders*. We remember a clergyman, who, upon being told when he bought a load of wood of one of his parishioners, that he might pay him with an *order* upon the treasurer of the society, remarked that he preferred to pay money for his purchases. The parishioner said, he "thought it was less trouble to give *orders*, and the people generally preferred it." Upon finding the minister firm in his decision of paying money, he said, "their former pastor was more accommodating; they paid most of his salary in orders." Of that, this clergyman had already been apprised by the pastor himself.

In other parishes, the money comes in dribbets — a dollar or two at a time, as the treasurer happens to receive it. Thus no calculation can be made upon regular payments, and consequently, the money is not worth as much as it otherwise would be. We once knew a treasurer of a society quite offended because a minister would not take his salary in dribbets.

It may be said these are all small matters, scarcely worth naming. We know they are, and we know, also, that it is of small affairs that life is composed. We know also, that it is much easier to bear, occasionally, a large disappointment than an everlasting repetition of smaller trials. "A continual dropping wears the stones."

A minister's cup of trials, too, is generally full, and it is the last drop that sinks the ship. Like an everlasting round in the treadmill, to grind and grind and know no end, is the great trial of too many. "Save me from my friends," is not unfrequently a phrase full of meaning. Now all these, and a thousand more, contribute to destroy the health and wear out the life of clergymen.

There are other important considerations connected with this subject. The gospel must be preached. The world will go to perdition without it, and "how can they hear without a preacher?" Some must be ambassadors of "the Prince of peace." They must not desert the field, but fight on till death; or, till they can say, as did the great apostle, "I have fought a good fight."

These considerations give vast weight to our subject. No one is justified in withdrawing from the gospel field who has health sufficient for the work.

Meekness, patience, forbearance and long suffering, become all who hold the sacred office. Clergymen must be "examples to the flock." They must also have a "good report of those that are without," though this is what neither the apostles, nor their Master had.

Religion being the most important of all concerns, and the prevalence of religion in the world having, by divine appointment, been made dependent upon the preaching of the gospel, it becomes a question of vast weight to decide, when, where, and how, a minister should preach — where the point is, at which forbearance should cease — when he should take injuries from "false brethren," and from the world calmly, and when he should "rebuke sharply." In all these, it certainly becomes clergymen to "ask wisdom of Him who giveth liberally, and to come boldly to the throne for grace to help in every time of need."

We need guard ourselves against thinking too much of life. It is the gift of God continued, taken when he pleases; and while "little things are great to little man," in the most trying of them, it is important to remember that life has been given us for usefulness, and that in it, no evil can befall us which is not under the guidance of our heavenly Father.

Another consideration worthy of attention, is, that all things work for good to the Christian. The fiery furnace of a pastor's life may be necessary for his purification.

Then, also, it is important to remember how much there is which is pleasant and refreshing in the life of a good minister. He is an object

of endearing affection to many. They love him as they love their own souls. They esteem him highly for his works' sake. They remember him in their blessings, and often administer to his necessities. They pray for him as one whom they love and delight to honor, and to see honored. These good people are to be found scattered all over the land — ready to do good to the minister — or to lay down their lives for his sake.

While, therefore, we speak freely of his trials and of many things which impair his health and wear out his life, we would never forget that he has "not yet resisted unto blood," and that should he even fall upon the field of battle, it will be only to be embalmed in the memory of the good, and to rise to a crown of glory, of unfading lustre. Let every clergyman then feel that trials and loss of health are the well intended chastisements of a benevolent Father, and that it is "through much tribulation that we must enter into the kingdom of heaven," but let him never be instrumental of bringing them upon himself by his own imprudence or neglect.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

VEGETARIANISM, AND DR. ALCOTT.

In alluding to that department of moral reform, once called Grahamism, but which has usually, of late, been yclept Vegetarianism, the editor of this journal lately said of his "old, kind-hearted friend, Dr. Alcott," as he calls him, "he seems to have retired, discouraged"; and this, accompanied with sundry other remarks, making up a sort of Jeremiad over what he appears to regard as a "departed Vegetarian," as we have no reason to doubt, was uttered in all sincerity. More than this, even, may be conceded. If any individual in the wide world, above all in the "Medical World," is under obligation to the public press for being permitted to live at all, it is this same Dr. Alcott. It would not be easy to say how many times he has been killed, by verbal and printed report, during the last thirty years.

And yet we have ample reason, from existing facts, for believing that the said vegetarian doctor is neither dead nor napping. Nor do we believe he has ever yet been dead — unless, like the fabled Phoenix of old, he rises occasionally from his own ashes; or, like the Spiritualists of modern times, has the range of both worlds. Most certainly, his position and employments do not seem very much like those of

a dead man, or a sleepy one. A man who has written some hundred and fifty volumes, travelled a hundred thousand miles, prescribed for ten thousand patients in chronic disease, visited and lectured in tens of thousands of families and schools, and cultivated, at the same time, a couple of acres of land, during the last quarter of a century, gives at least some little evidence of wakefulness, as well as of inherent vitality.

And then, as to any recent retreat from the battle-field, which has been alluded to, facts are equally unfavorable. Dr. A. has just finished a most laborious work of four or five hundred well-digested pages on the "Laws of Health," intended as a sequel to his popular little volume, entitled, "The House I Live In," which he hopes, ere long, to be able to place in all our schools, and not a few of our families. Then he is an associate physician in one of the most popular as well as most successful curative institutions in this city, viz., the Dietetic Institute, at No. 20 Lagrange place, where he is inculcating his peculiar doctrines of Hygiene, both by example and precept, to scores of patients every week. And, lastly, as the crowning evidence of continued pulsation, Dr. A. is, and has been, for many years, the President of the American Vegetarian Society, and an honorary member of the British Society; which last embraces, at the present date, about 850 members. So much, then, for Dr. A. — Let us now look a moment at one specific question.

You speak of the "sort of teeth" now in use, as if they were not only capable of masticating "roast beef," but adapted to that most delectable task. Now it will be of no use, I dare say, to refer you to isolated cases, such as those of your friends, Dr. Alcott, who has used no animal food for twenty-five years, and very little in fifty, and Dr. Mussey, who, according to your sketch in No. 3., has been a Vegetarian nearly twenty years, — with numerous other Hygeists. But what will you say, on the teeth question, to the declarations of such men as Laurence, Cuvier, and Flourens? Most certainly you will have regard to the French savans, if not to Mr. Lawrence. Let me first quote from Baron Cuvier. [See *Animal Kingdom*, p. 45.]

"The natural food of man, judging from his structure, appears to consist principally of the fruits, roots, and other succulent parts of vegetables. His hands afford every facility for gathering them; his short and but moderately-strong jaws on the one hand, and his canines

being equal only in length to the other teeth, together with his tuberculated molars on the other, would scarcely permit him either to masticate herbage or to devour flesh. * * * *

His organs of digestion are in conformity with those of mastication."

M. Flourens, in his more recent work, entitled, "Human Longevity, and the Quantity of Life on the Globe," thus says: —

"Man is not carnivorous, nor is he truly herbivorous. He has not, like the ruminating animals — those which are herbivorous, par excellence — teeth with alternate hollows and projections; nor a stomach composed of four stomachs; nor yet intestines from twenty-eight to forty-eight times the length of his body. * * * * By his stomach, teeth, and intestines, then, man is naturally and primitively frugivorous, like the monkey."

These quotations, from very high authority, and deduced from a very careful and extensive observation of facts, and the most persevering study of the whole subject, will, as I suppose, be sufficient for your readers, whatever may be the effect on yourself. In any event, they may suffice — their *source* and other circumstances taken into the account — to show that Dr. Alcott is neither "retired" nor "discouraged;" but laboring with even more faith than that of a quarter of a century ago.

W. A. A.

FLOATING FACTS.

Arctic Fame. — At the Lochaber Agricultural Society's dinner, an incident occurred which formed a very interesting finale to the day's proceedings. A gentleman, apparently a tourist, arrived at the hotel just as the party were to sit down to dinner; he asked, and was immediately granted permission to join; throughout the evening he made himself particularly agreeable, and his health was proposed as "The Stranger," and very cordially drunk. On rising to return thanks, he said: "In the course of my life I have seen some rough days and many pleasant ones. I have lived ten months in a snowhouse, without once warming myself at a fire. I have had my moccasins cut off my legs with a hatchet. I have had to kill my own food with my own gun, and I have been reduced to the necessity of living on bones; but all these things are easily forgotten when I meet such a pleasant party as is now around me. As I am an entire stranger to you all, and as I have received so much kindness from you, it is but fair that you

should know who I am; my name is Rae, and you may have heard it associated with the Franklin Expedition." At this announcement the astonished party started to their feet, and gave Dr. Rae a most enthusiastic reception. The cheering lasted several minutes, after which Dr. Rae showed some of the articles which had indicated the probable fate of Sir John Franklin and his party. They consisted of a piece of gold and two silver watches, a small anchor, several coins, a spoon, with a crest engraved on it, &c. Dr. Rae had been on a visit to Mr. Edward Ellice, M. P., at Glenquoich, and was on his way to Castle Menzies.

Dangerous Cosmetic.—The use of belladonna is now unblushingly advertised to "give brilliancy, vivacity, and the power of fascination to the eye." The announcement is heralded by a puff about its use by "the ladies of Asia"—in harems and elsewhere,—which argument would be as appropriate, with a slight geographical alteration, should any enterprising jeweller seek to introduce the wearing of rings through the nose. The "brilliant eye" being due to the influence of belladonna in contracting the iris, and the enlarged pupil forming a greater contrast to the white of the sclerotic, while it allowed a larger field for the reflection of light from the lens, would necessarily require a strong light for the development of its brilliancy and powers of fascination. And a strong light, with a paralyzed iris and enlarged pupil, is the best conceivable way to weaken and destroy the delicately beautiful action of the organ of sight. The brilliant eye would as surely be followed by dimness of sight and blindness, as the sunlight gives place to the nightshade.

Appreciation of Medical Services.—The citizens of Portsmouth, Va., at a meeting held Feb. 5th, 1856, adopted the resolutions complimentary to those surgeons of the navy who had rendered signal service during the prevalence of the yellow fever there, and voting to Lewis A. Minor, and to his able and humane assistants, Thomas B. Steel, James F. Harrison, Randolph Harrison, C. Colman, and F. A. Valke, as a testimonial, gold medals, with suitable inscriptions. In accordance with the resolutions a massive gold medal, handsomely encased, has been lately presented to each of the naval surgeons named therein, accompanied by letters highly complimentary from the committee.

A Physician tried for Murder.—Edward H. Ruloff, a German physician, was convicted at Oswego last week of the murder of his child. The circumstances of the case are briefly as follows: Twelve years ago, Ruloff with his wife and child settled at Lansing, N. Y. and the next year his wife and child were missing, although she had previously announced that she was going on a visit.

When a few months had passed, and she did not return, suspicion was aroused, and Ruloff was arrested. A variety of circumstances tended to fasten the suspicion of murder upon him, but it could not be proved, and he was tried for the abduction of his wife, convicted, and sentenced to ten years in the State Prison. This term recently expired, and on his release Ruloff was re-arrested, and charged with the murder of his child, and although there is no positive proof that he killed his wife or child, he has been convicted of wilful murder. The defence was conducted by Joshua A. Spencer, and the prosecution by Daniel S. Dickinson. Sentence was postponed, in order that the case might be presented to the next general term.

New York Hospital.—Some exceedingly curious and important operations have recently been performed in that institution, lithotomy among the number. This is related as one of the feats of the operator not long since, viz.: the refracture of a badly united fracture of the thigh, a procedure which has less the aspect of surgery than of assault and battery. The patient was *anaesthetized* by ether, and the limb being extended and counter-extended by means of pulleys, the surgeon placed his knee against the fractured ends of the bone, and, grasping the limb above and below with his hands, refractured the bone just as you would break a fagot across your knee. It was then found it could be lengthened to within an inch and a half of the sound limb, which was about half its previous shortening. The limb was then placed in the fracture-box, and the bandages and dressings all applied before removal from the theatre in the view of the class.

Life Insurance.—Some offices have a foundation, and some have not. It is essential to ascertain that point before paying in the money. They have a capacity for swallowing up large sums, but pay out with reluctance. Some of the New York offices are sound institutions.

Gigantic Skeleton.—In the course of sub-soiling the vineyard of Sheriff Wickham, in East Wheeling, Virginia, the laborers discovered immensely large-sized human bones. Although much decayed, there was little difficulty in identifying them by placing the bones, which could not have belonged to other than a human body, in their original position. The impression made by the skeleton in the earth, and the skeleton itself, were measured—ten feet in length! If any one wishes to satisfy himself on this point, the bones are all saved and may be examined by the curious. The probability is, that under the practised eye of a naturalist, they will turn out to be the bones of some extinct animals, strewn over the continent in wild profusion. Who knows but this may be the veritable *Chirotherium*,—the impressions of whose hand are found on the sandstone?

Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.—At the annual meeting on the 4th inst., this institution was found to be in a very prosperous condition. By the annual report of the Surgeons, it appears that 2263 cases have been attended to, of whom 1154 were males, and 1109 females, being an excess of 154 over the previous year. 1172 were country patients, and 1091 belonged to this city. 56 important operations were made during the year.

The following is the organization for the year: Dr. S. D. Townsend, President; J. W. Edmands, Treasurer; Theodore Frothingham, Secretary; Henry Price, J. W. Wolcott, J. R. Blanchard, James Lawrence, Moses Grant, G. H. Shaw, Samuel Hooper, C. H. Mills, Managers; Dr. E. Reynolds, Dr. Hooper, and Dr. Bethune, Surgeons; Dr. Sharp, Assistant Surgeon.

Death from Hydrophobia at Philadelphia.—About three weeks since, a boy about nine years of age was bitten by a mad dog. The boy felt no serious inconvenience from the wound until within the last week, when he was attacked with hydrophobia, and after suffering horribly from the disease, he died on Thursday.

Eclectic College of Medicine.—A legal decision at Cincinnati puts to rest the controversy in regard to the possession of the edifice in which the lectures were given by those who have lost the case. The defeated party, in excellent spirits, intimate that they feel relieved from working the pumps of a sinking ship.

Asylum for Inebriates.—A petition is now in circulation in Worcester, Mass., with reference to “an asylum for inebriates, wherein they may receive such treatment as shall restore them to soundness of health and sanity of mind, and also to afford such facilities as shall render the asylum a self-supporting institution for the now miserable victims of intemperance.” The author of the petition is the same lady who with so much success petitioned the Legislature for a State Reform School for Girls.

Why does not some enterprising physician open a private asylum on his own account. We proposed a plan some weeks ago, and fully believing whoever does it, will secure both fortune and fame, we are astonished that there is no more enterprise among the young unemployed gentlemen of the medical profession.

Death from a Leech Bite.—*Extraordinary Case.* A somewhat singular case has been brought under the notice of the coroner for West Middlesex, London, in which a child lost its life through excessive hemorrhage resulting from a leech bite. The deceased, Samuel Innes Press, had been affected with a severe attack of bronchitis, when it was thought necessary for the child's safety to apply leeches to the vicinity of irritation; and the consequence was, that one of the leech bites bled so profusely, that the poor little creature shortly after expired from shock to the system occasioned by the great loss of blood.

Monster Bird.—The British Museum has just received the skeleton of that very rare species of gigantic wingless bird, the *diornis elephantopus*—the only one that has ever been re-constructed from the real bones of one individual. They were procured by Mr. Mantell, a son of the learned Dr. Mantell, on the middle island, so called, of New Zealand. The race is supposed to be utterly extinct. A cast of an egg, laid by one of those birds,—the shell of which held thirteen quarts,—is in the collection of the late Dr. Warren, of Boston. Now calculate the altitude and probable size of a bird that laid a nest of such eggs.

Mediums.—Addison Davis, of Lynn, offered to give any spiritual medium \$50, who would tell for whom California had cast her electoral vote, requiring at the same time the exact number of votes each candidate had received, before it was possible to hear in any other way from that State.

Lunacy of Dogs.—On the 157th page, vol. I, of Kane's Arctic Explorations, this entry occurs. Jan. 25th. "The mouse-colored dogs, the leaders of my Newfoundland team, have for the last fortnight been nursed like babies. No one can tell how anxiously I watch them. They are kept below, tended, fed, cleaned, caressed and *doctored*, to the infinite discomfort of all hands. To-day I give up the last hope of saving them. Their disease is as clearly mental as in the case of any human being. The more material functions of the poor brutes go on without interruption: they eat voraciously, retain their strength and sleep well. But all the indications beyond this go to prove that the original epilepsy, which was the first manifestation of brain disease among them, has been followed by a true lunacy. They bark frenziedly at nothing, and walk in straight and curved lines with an anxious and unwearying perseverance.

They fawn on you without seeming to appreciate the notice you give them in return; pushing their heads against your person, or oscillating with a strange pantomime of fear. Their most intelligent actions seem automatic: sometimes they claw you, as if trying to burrow into your seal-skins: sometimes they remain for hours in moody silence, and then start off howling, as if pursued, and run up and down for hours.

So it was with poor Flora, our wise dog. She was seized with the endemic spasms, and after a few wild violent paroxysms, lapsed into a lethargic condition, eating voraciously, but gaining no strength. This passing off, the same crazy wildness took possession of her, and she died of brain disease, *arachnoidal effusion*, in about six weeks. Generally, they perish with symptoms resembling lock-jaw, in less than thirty-six hours after the first attack."

Nine splendid Newfoundland and thirty-five Esquimaux, thus died in six months, — leaving but six alive, and those unfit for service in the sledge. The following September, a favorite dog was seized with the same malady. In his delirium, the poor creature plunged into the water and drowned himself, like a sailor with the horrors.

Food of the Ichthyo-Saurus.—Mr. Moore, at the British Association proved very conclusively, that these fossil monsters with long jaws and teeth, feed freely on the cuttle fish. Singular kind of hooks were found in the stomach of the ichthyosaurus, which indicated that

cephalopods had been fed upon. He produced some dark matter taken from a stomach of one of his ichthyo sauri, which, after untold ages of time in which it had been imprisoned, was the fluid ink of the cuttle-fish.

Widows and Orphans of Physicians.—A society, intended to be purely benevolent in its design, for affording relief to the families of unfortunate medical men, has been fourteen years in existence in New York. Repeated calls to organize a similar institution in Boston, have failed.

On the 18th of Nov. the members dined together, as they do annually; and on that festive occasion, report to the world their success in the way of accumulation: —

The Society was instituted in 1842, and the funds now amount to \$19,911 16, of which \$19,200 is invested in mortgage; the balance will be more than absorbed in a loan lately ordered by the Standing Committee, which waits the necessary investigation of title, and, when completed, will make the Society temporarily indebted to the Treasurer.

The investments draw seven per cent., and are, without exceptions, on improved property in this city and Brooklyn; and, as an additional security, the buildings are all of them insured and the policies assigned.

The receipts for the year ending in September were \$1,865 12, derived from the following sources:

Interest.....	\$1,154 12	
Init'n Fees and An. Subscriptions..	440 00	
Legacy.....	300 00	
Donation.....	1 00	—\$1,865 12
Disbursements for the same period.....	220 75	

Since the last Anniversary Dinner fifteen members were elected, making the whole number ninety; of these, fifty-one are for life, and thirty-nine annual subscribers; besides, the number of benefactors have doubled, now numbering eighteen, of whom four are laymen.

Annual members pay an Initiation Fee of \$10 and \$10 dues, in semi-annual payments; or \$100 paid at one time, constitutes a member for life.

The New Metal.—A vessel has arrived at Copenhagen, from Greenland, with a cargo of *cryolite*, — a mineral from which aluminium may be obtained at a cost which will allow of its being sold at the rate of silver, by the ounce. It is predicted that it is to have great importance in the arts. Cryolite consists of aluminium united to sodium and fluorine — and it is found in abundance in Greenland.

Albinos.—Having seen it stated in the newspapers some time ago that a negress in Alabama had given birth to three children, two of whom were white and other black, we addressed a note to Dr. John H. Hundley, of Mooresville, the attending physician, requesting a statement of the facts. We have been favored with a reply from Dr. H., who informs us that it has been ascertained by microscopic examination of the hair of these two children, that the two white ones were Albinos, their hair presenting the negro peculiarity as strongly as that of the black child. Our informant adds, that both parents are full-blooded negroes—that the mother has had fourteen children, five Albinos and nine blacks, and that the Albinos are as white as any of the Caucasian race.

The conjectures about double paternity and superfoetation, are therefore, in this case at least, set at rest, says the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal.

Experiment with an Idiot.—Dr. Madio relates that an idiot at Salzburg, appearing to be singularly insusceptible of fear, an experiment of an appalling character and appalling consequences, was made upon him as a means of putting his susceptibility to a test. It was proposed to produce in him the impression that he was with a dead man come to life. A person, accordingly, had himself laid out as a corpse, and enveloped in a shroud, and the idiot was ordered to watch over the dead. The idiot perceiving some motion in the corpse, desired it to lie still; but the pretended corpse raising itself in spite of this admonition, the idiot seized a hatchet, which was unluckily within his reach, and cut off first one of the feet of the unfortunate counterfeit, and then, unmoved by his cries, cut off his head. He then calmly resumed his station by the real corpse.

Gura Nut of Africa.—The gura nut is a species of large red bean, of a bitter taste, but greatly prized for its tonic properties. It grows on a tree resembling somewhat the magnolia, and is to be found only along the seacoast regions. The tree bears a large number of pods, in appearance and size not unlike a cucumber. Each of these pods contains a half dozen or more of these irregular shaped beans. They are greatly prized by the interior nations, and especially by travellers, who have to perform long journeys, and many times without sufficient food.

Museum of Fossil Remains.—Maximilian the Second, king of Bavaria, has just purchased the immense private collection of Dr. Häberlein, a quiet country physician. Here is an example of what may be accomplished by patient, unobtrusive perseverance, while attending to professional calls. All through the Western States the opportunity for forming collections of plants, fossil bones, mineral specimens, fresh water shells, seeds, insects, birds, reptiles, &c., &c., is a hundred fold superior to any part of modern Europe or the old Atlantic States. Commence forthwith, after reading this paragraph.

Families of Insects.—A celebrated entomologist says, that more than a lifetime would be necessary to enumerate the various species of insects and describe their appearance. Meiger, a German, collected and described 600 species of flies which he collected in a distance of ten miles circumference. There have been collected in Europe 20,000 species of insects preying on wheat. In Berlin, two professors are engaged in collecting, observing, and describing insects and their habits, and already they have published five large volumes upon the insects which attack forest trees.

Origin of Tape Worm.—The *Gazette Medicale* asserts that the Hebrews are never troubled with it; the pork butchers are peculiarly liable to it, and dogs that are fed on pork are universally so afflicted; in fact, it turns out that a small parasite worm called *crystecersas*, (from two words signifying a small sect and a tail, which much affects pork,) no sooner reaches the stomach than, from the change of diet and position, it is metamorphosed into the well known tape-worm; and the experiments of M. Kuchenmeister, of Zittoria, upon a condemned criminal, have established the fact beyond all contradiction.

Effects of Memory.—Two young girls belonging to a Sabbath School at the West, performed this mental feat: In five weeks one of them committed to memory 4,566 verses in the Bible, and the other 7,266. In a single week, the latter child actually committed 4,266 verses. If both are not deranged before they are twenty, provided they are stimulated to such mental exertion, than those who admonish us not to over-tax the brains of children, have made a mistake in their deductions and unnecessarily alarmed thoughtful parents.

Longevity of Zoophytes.—Prof. Fleming of Edinburgh has an *actinia mesembryantheman*, taken at North Berwick in 1828, and then supposed to be seven years old. It must therefore be about thirty-five years of age—twenty eight of which have been in close confinement as a prisoner, to gratify the curiosity of a naturalist. This identical creature is figured in Sir John Graham Dalyell's work on "Race and Remarkable Animals of Scotland."

Loss by a Physician.—The tobacco steamery of Dr. J. Burr, at Richmond, Va., was destroyed by fire, with thirty-four hogsheads of tobacco; loss \$5000, insurance \$3000.

Death's Instrumentality.—Three hundred and fifty million dollars are annually expended for ardent spirits, wine and beer, in Great Britain.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Edward Howard, M. D., is the author of *Genesis*—a poem that is making a talk in literary circles throughout the commonwealth of letters. Dr. C. B. Cheever, Dr. E. Henderson and Dr. Wm. Smith, have each made a favorable impression in England as authors.

The following gentlemen, still living, all of them physicians, are among the most renowned travellers in the world,—viz., Dr. Barth, a successful explorer of a large portion of Central Africa,—an account of which he is preparing in five volumes; Dr. Vogel, also in the interior of Africa, where no white man ever before penetrated; Dr. Bakie, on the Niger and the river Tschadda; Dr. Livingston, of whom mention was made last week, who has arrived at Mauritius; Dr. Sutherland, probably now at Natal; Dr. Rae, a northern traveller, who has received the premium of many thousand pounds for discovering the fate of Sir John Franklin; and lastly, Dr. Elisha K. Kane, whose unsurpassed energy, boldness and discoveries in the arctic regions of the North, is a theme of conversation from the palace to the home of the peasant.

Medical lectures commenced in the University of Louisiana, at New Orleans, on Monday, Nov. 17th.

There were admitted into the Charity Hospital, New Orleans, in 1855, 9,406 males and 2,786 females. Of this number, 7,466 males and 2,235 females were discharged. Of this great number of patients, only 1,848 males

and 542 females died. Few, if any, hospitals in this country, present such a field for medical and surgical observation for students.

A new school of medicine was recently organized at New Orleans, with a strong faculty which commenced its first course of lecture on Monday, Nov. 17th. Prof. Edward D. Fenner and Prof. John M. W. Picton, are gentlemen of established professional reputation, well known throughout this country.

By multiplying institutions in favorable locations, knowledge is centralized, and two schools will flourish far better than one alone. It is difficult to make some people comprehend the principle, but it is true in respect to medical colleges,—vid. Philadelphia. Take away the charters of all but one, and instead of having more than a thousand students annually matriculating at the different schools, there would not be one hundred and fifty visiting the city in a year.

Adolph Didier is reviving animal magnetism in France, and drawing within his magic circle some of the most learned of all the fools in that country. The plants of the garden are represented to be obedient to his behest. He looks through opaque bodies as easily as any one can look through a mill-stone. It will soon be revived in America if it succeeds well abroad.

A stir is making in Germany in regard to the helpless condition of a celebrated and courageous Abyssinian traveller.

At a late meeting of the German Association for the advancement of Science, at Vienna, Dr. Prestel read a paper on Thunder Storms, considered as limits of atmospheric strata, within which equatorial and polar air currents move above the earth's surface. Dr. Scherzer explained his views concerning the Aztec children while he resided at Gautemala, the pretended country of these singular specimens of humanity. Dr. Scherzer ascertained that the people called Aztecs never were there in any period of their history. He believed the children were mulattoes, from the Centro-American State of San Salvador.

English physicians are patterns of literary industry. When they have no patients, they economize time with literary pursuits. Dr. Doran has a book on its winding way with this title—*Monarchs Retired from Business*.

Why dont some enterprising young physician open an Anatomical Museum in Boston? Dr. Kan's in London, and similar establishments on a humbler scale, are sources of instruction to the masses, as well as profit to the

proprietors. The ground is wholly unoccupied. Who has the moral courage to make himself honorably known as an expert anatomist?

Dr. A. H. Hardcastle has been appointed assistant surgeon, with the rank of Captain; Dr. Com. H. Saunders, resigned—Dr. D. N. Ingraham, *dropped*.

Drs. Zina Pitcher, Wm. Brodie, Ed. P. Christian, of Michigan, and Dr. A. B. Palmer, of Illinois, have each and all been officially notified that a suit has been commenced against them for a libel at the instance of Dr. Henry Goadby. They are editors and proprietors of the *Peninsular Medical Journal*. Any body would insure their acquittal for sixpence.

Dr. Michael Prince Moore, of New York, was arrested, for the third time within a few months, on charges of having endeavored to hire persons to murder Mr. Alfred L. Livingston, of Trenton, N. J. The charge is supported by an affidavit of Miss. Mary Worden of Brooklyn, who deposes that Dr. Moore proposed to her to take Mr. Livingston's life, and on her consenting, furnished her with money to go to Trenton for that purpose.

Dr. David P. Heap, acting consul at Tunis, has sent home for the Washington Monument, a block of stone about two feet square, that once belonged to some important structure in *ancient Carthage*. On one side is inlaid, in antique marble of different hues, a horse and palm tree, which compose the ancient arms of Carthage, under which is the word "Carthage."

The whole earth is becoming a Sepulchre. Since the opening of Greenwood Cemetery, on Long Island, N. Y., in September, 1840, the interments have amounted to 47,223.

Dr. Clarke's introductory lecture before the class, at the opening of the present course of instruction at the Medical College in Boston, has been published in a neat pamphlet, the typography of which is creditable to the office where it was printed.

An intimation is held out in the *College Journal of Medical Science*, that a new, handsome, and appropriate building for the Eclectic College, may be erected in Cincinnati.

It is admitted in the journals generally, that the fee of *one hundred and twelve thousand dollars*, paid to the accoucheur of the Empress Eugenie, on her late confinement, was a large sum.

An ovarian tumor, weighing *one hundred pounds*, almost solid, and one hundred and five pounds with the fluid, was recently extracted from a woman, by Dr. Dunlop, of Ripley, Brown County, Ohio, and exhibited to the

students of the Ohio Medical College, by Professor Blackman, and thence was conveyed to the Miami Medical College for the inspection of the students of that institution. The woman from whom the tumor was so boldly and successfully extracted was living four days after the operation, and improving. She resides in Brown County, and is forty-one years of age.

Drs. Barnham and Bass, of Lowell, Mass., on the 24th of Nov. removed with complete success, one-half of the lower jaw from a man, for a cancerous tumor, in which the bone was involved. An incision was made, extending from the chin to an inch above the joint near the ear, and the flesh separated from the bone and held back while the bone was separated in the centre by means of a double reacting circular saw, a new and very ingeniously contrived instrument for the purpose. The patient, Mr. Sparhawk, of Oxford, is doing well. He was under the influence of chloroform during the operation. The citizens of Lowell have reason to be proud of the medical and surgical skill of that city, which is not surpassed in any direction.

PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL WORLD.

The following new publications are not only useful, but most of them are particularly interesting to medical men. Some of them are in press, and all may be had reasonably by addressing the publishers.

By A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, Gregory's Inorganic Chemistry, to which has been added,—Physics of Chemistry.

Principles of Chemistry, by Prof. John A. Porter, M. D., of Yale College, Conn.

By Childs & Peterson, New York, Dr. Elisha Kent Kane's Arctic Expedition, 2 vols., 8vo, with three hundred illustrations. It is an exciting work.

Mutual Responsibilities of Physicians and the Community.

Amusements — their Use and Abuse.

A Review of Theoretical Geology, by Martin Paine, M. D.

Records of Longevity, with an Introductory Discourse on Vital Statistics.

Some Points on the Anatomy of the Liver of Man and Vertebrate Animals.

Physical Optics, or the Nature and Progress of Light, by R. Potter, 8vo.

Geology, as it affects the Plurality of Worlds.

Observations on the Criminal Responsibility

of the Insane, &c. by Caleb Williams, M. D., 8vo.

A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Testis, and on the Spermatic Cord and Scrotum, with numerous wood engravings. By T. B. Curling, F. R. S., Surgeon to the London Hospital, Lecturer on Surgery at the London Hospital Medical College, President of the Hunterian Society, London, etc. Second American from the Second revised and enlarged English edition. 8vo. [Blanchard & Lea.]

The Bouquet of Spiritual Flowers; received chiefly through Mediumship of Mrs. J. S. Adams. By A. B. Child, M. D.

Morfit's Chemical and Pharmaceutical Manipulations, a greatly enlarged edition, with over 500 illustrations.

A new edition of Pereira's Physician's Prescription Book.

A new edition of Wythe's Pocket Dose and Symptom Book.

Several new works, and others revised in a second edition, have appeared in London, which are not yet on sale in this country. For example:

Philosophy of the Stomach.

Surgeon's Vade-Mecum, by Robert Druitt, 7th edition.

The Progress of Preventive Medicine and Sanitary Measures, by A. W. Barclay, M. D.

An Exposition of the Signs of Pregnancy. By W. T. Montgomery, M. D.

Practical Treatise on Disorders of the Stomach, by James Turnbull, M. D.

Treatment of Cancerous Diseases by Caustic. By L. Parker, M. D.

On Fractures of Bones occurring in Gun Shot Wounds. By Stromeyer, &c., &c.

Liberality of a Boston Physician.—By a provision of the will of the late Dr. Henry Wales, the library of Harvard College has, within the last month, become possessed of a collection of books, perhaps the most splendid that was ever, at any one time, added to its stores. The volumes, about fourteen hundred in number, were, for the most part, purchased by the testator while residing in Europe. The votaries of Sanskrit, German, and Italian literature, will find among them many volumes equally costly and indispensable. By another clause of Dr. Wales's will, the sum of forty thousand dollars is set aside, to be ultimately dedicated to the foundation of a Chair of Sanskrit literature at Cambridge.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 3, 1856.

REPORTING MEDICAL LECTURES.—Abroad, the public lectures appear in the periodicals. If they are of a high character, their general publicity immensely diffuses the reputation of the professor who delivers them. No reluctance or objection to having them thus appear, has ever been expressed, to our knowledge, at the great medical schools of Europe. On the other hand, the faculty know that it is the only direct method of becoming extensively eminent.

Now contrast the custom in London, in this respect, with the narrow-souled policy of *forbidding* the publication of lectures given in public institutions!

If any tolerable lecturer fancies that it would lessen the value of his stock in trade, to put his doctrines in type, because he has neither the learning or ingenuity to deviate from a stereotyped series, forever the same, year in, year out, he must be considered over-prudent. Of course, he intends to live and die in the chair. Any improper exposure of his manuscript to a compositor's eye, he erroneously imagines, would inevitably be at the expense of his capital. It would tend to enlarge his sphere of influence, while it would immensely augment his income.

Again, by permitting the freest circulation of the facts, the opinions and the deductions made before the class, the effect would be of the highest importance to the rising reputation of the individual. He would be Sir Oracle, and find himself further advanced on the Appian way to commanding professional distinction, in one single lecture term, than he could advance himself, prompted by the boldest ambition, in ten successive years of ordinary plodding.

Who can gainsay this reasoning? It is true. If convinced,—send your manuscripts to the Journals, indicating what may, or what may not be published. Not a page would be marred, nor a line obliterated. Then, after correcting the proof-sheet, the whole might be promptly returned to the owner for future service.

STUDYING OUR OWN DISEASES.—Whoever reads medical books with an expectation of understanding his own complaints, is pretty much in the condition of a lawyer who pleads his own cause:—he is said to have a fool for a client.

There is no reliance on the judgment when a physician prescribes for himself, because he is unwilling to believe the evidence of his senses, when the symptoms are unfavorable. We knew an eminent medical gentleman in Boston, who, when in failing health, was gratified to know that with all his difficulties, his kidneys were perfectly sound. A post-mortem revealed the fact that those organs were the seat of all his sufferings, and the cause of his death.

WHO WRITES A MEDICAL BOOK?—With all the professional activity of the United States, organized schools and faculties, the number of books on medicine, surgery and the collateral branches written by professors is certainly small. There must be a reason for it. One cause may be the poor encouragement they receive in the way of compensation; another, a want of leisure; again, hundreds of men have the gift for talking extremely well, who could not write ten pages worth reading on any subject with which they are most familiar. Nothing is more common than to hear severe criticisms on the literary or scientific attainments of men before the public as authors, from those who possess the art of fault-finding to an unlimited extent. Occasionally, an individual is so happily circumstanced for his own reputation, that his oracular sayings are chronicled by a jackal who is permitted to trot by the side of the lion. But such glory is ephemeral, and dies with the generation and the neighborhood where it originated.

On the other hand, several Americans have secured a decided reputation as writers, by their genius, industry and acknowledged medical learning. And many more have the way open before them for honorable distinction. The failure of scores who might have had a strong hold upon the medical public, is discoverable in their propensity for controversy. Parties in medicine, like parties in politics, pass away beyond the reach of history. No one cares for either, six months in succession.

DISTORTIONS OF THE SPINE.—Medical advice is so very frequently sought, of late, in regard to spinal difficulties, that it would be doing good service to prepare a popular treatise for family reading, with directions how to prevent young ladies from having incurvations. It is really melancholy to witness the increasing extent of this misfortune. It is the infliction of the rich. The poor, in general, escape; but the daughters of those who keep coaches, oftener than otherwise, suffer intensely; while the servant girl has a fine form, a beautifully developed chest, a straight back, even shoulders and fine health.

Very refined sentimental mothers are heartily tired of hearing the vulgar suggestion that an *ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure*. However, if young misses most predisposed, from their social position, to the terrible visitation of distortions of the spine, were to romp and frolic more in the open air, than positive gentility allows; wore thick shoes, and warm dresses suspended by shoulder straps, instead of being girded like a boa constrictor round the waist; and were put upon a coarse, fresh wholesome diet, rather than strong tea, coffee and high-seasoned food; and lastly, were sent to bed at nine o'clock, the year round, till they are sixteen, instead of dancing in a vitiated atmosphere till three o'clock in the morning, the next generation of ladies would equal their maids in health, strength and beauty.

HYDROPATHY.—As the number of hydropathic establishments seems to have diminished, it is possible that more science and less admiration are to be found in them. There was a time when patients were hoping for more benefit than was ever realized. Because a cold bath or a wet sheet might have effected a marvellous cure in one instance, it did not follow that water was a sovereign remedy for all maladies. Under the advice of discreet physicians, no doubt good is often accomplished by hydropathic treatment.

On the contrary, those who organized institutions here and there and every where, as mills are located where there is a plenty of water, to make money more than to make cripples walk, brought hydropathy into bad odor. When superintended by regularly educated physicians, confidence is inspired, and better results may be anticipated.

Perhaps some one, qualified by a connection with a respectable hydropathic house, will favor the medical public with a detailed account of what is doing, what has been done, and what may be accomplished through the proper administration of pure water, externally and internally, in the United States, when under the direction of a person competent to the undertaking.

COST OF SECURING HEALTH.—On the Atlantic coast, the sober six per cent. denizens of the old commercial cities are unwilling to credit all they hear of the growing importance of the infantile cities of the West. They will wake up to a realizing sense of the facts, if they are not vigilant in giving more encouragement to enterprise at home, when they find all the young men have gone west; the business gone west; the money gone west; and all the political power is established in the West. But to the point;—see what they are doing in one city at the West, so that the citizens can live long enough to make a fortune. When the plan for sewerage is fully carried out, the lowest cost to the inhabitants will be \$2,300,000. An engineer, recently in the service of the city of Boston, at the magnificent salary of *twenty-three hundred dollars a year*, was inducted into office in Chicago with a salary of *five thousand dollars* per annum, to superintend this great work, for which \$300,000 have already been provided by the city council.

DEAFNESS.—From the complicated and minute structure of the labyrinth, the causes of deafness are extremely obscure, and rarely understood by one in a hundred who prescribe for them: it is not improbable that many cases are aggravated and confirmed by the very course adopted to remove the difficulty. It is always a safe practice to pursue mild applications only. Nature is ready and willing to help herself, and would often succeed in restoring the acoustic instrument to its primitive condition of usefulness, if let alone. Pouring mixtures into the meatus, makes bad worse. The best aurists of Europe trust more to nature than their own uncertain art.

DARING SURGERY.—With vulgar minds, cutting and slashing passes for operative surgery. He who is constantly amputating limbs, establishes the reputation of being a great surgeon; while the quiet, modest man, ambitious to save limbs and succeeds, is scarcely regarded for skill. Exploits, whether for evil or good, with a scalpel or a sword, provided they are freely used, create surprise at first, and then admiration. The inventor of a revolving pistol that enables the possessor to kill seven people in less than a minute, is hailed as a genius, and secures both agreeable notoriety and a fortune for his destructive invention. On the contrary, those who propose contrivances for saving life, whether at sea or from a burning house, can scarcely find a purchaser for the apparatus.

Modern surgery is exceedingly unobtrusive compared with that of the olden time. It is divested of some of its dangers, and is daily being improved, since it is actually becoming fashionable to avoid operations if there is any prospect that nature can do better than art.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.—Tombs are a nuisance, and the public sentiment is right in regarding them in cities, as dangerous to the public health. At the celebrated cemetery of Mount Auburn, the further construction of tombs is interdicted. The trustees have given evidence by this act, of their appreciation of the difficulties posterity must contend with by the multiplication of those receptacles. The dead should be consigned to the earth from whence they came. No arguments are necessary to prove how reasonable, philosophical and proper this must be, in reference to the living. Burials in Boston were suspended in the principal burying yards, for three years, till there was influence enough brought to bear upon the legislature, by those having a property interest in the tombs, to compel the municipal authorities of the city to rescind the order, rather than be in a whirlwind of lawsuits with those who have done the citizens of Boston an irreparable injury by again filling the tombs with immense masses of decomposing remains.

TAINTED BLOOD.—Those nostrum venders who prate continually in the advertisements about the impurities of the blood, have many facts on their side, but badly presented. Excesses certainly vitiate the fountain of life. The blood is made bad indeed, by stimulating potations, often repeated; by engorging the stomach with highly seasoned viands; by riotous violation of the natural laws of health in abuse of the body. Besides the pains imposed upon the individual as an immediate penalty, the physical miseries thus engendered, become the direct inheritance of the children of such persons. Their irritable eyes, cutaneous eruptions, feeble organization, proneness to fevers or tendency to consumption, independently of many organic woes, are sent down to them in the tainted blood of their parents.

VULGAR ERRORS.—When certain clever people of limited opportunities for physiological knowledge, get possession of some general principles which have a bearing upon the laws of life, oftener wrong than right, is no easy task to reason them out of their errors. For example, the belief has obtained extensive credence that marvellous, undefined changes take place in the human body every seven years; that vaccination loses its prophylactic efficacy at the termination of that period; and finally, that an individual is actually renewed, throughout, once in seven long years. The old bones slip out mysteriously, by a sly trick of nature's legerdemain, while the new ones pop in, presto-like, so that John Hobbs is changed, de facto, into a new man, even to his wig; and his amiable unmarried sister, Miss Chlotilda Victoria Hobbs, at the age of seven time seven years, is a regenerated individual.

FEMALE EDUCATION.—Some sage writer, whose name cannot be recollected, asserts that were it not for the occasional disgrace of marrying a kitchen maid, every noble family in England would long since have been extinct. The race will degenerate in this favored land, if all the females should unfortunately be educated according to the present high standard of intellectual culture. They have brain, but no bodies. By overtaxing the nervous system, those who might have been finely developed, robust and fitted for home responsibilities, the focus of happiness, are frail, thin, shadowy, sickly women, with scarcely strength to support the hoops and flounces which arbitrary fashion imposes upon them. Young girls should walk, ride, romp, laugh, and be fat, as well as boys. Breathing fresh air, eating a generous allowance and studying the mysteries of domestic economy, never interfered with their matrimonial prospects, blighted their beauty, gave them sharp noses, bad tempers, a shorter lease of life or less loving husbands.

BRITISH HOSPITAL AT SMYRNA.—An English lady, who appears to have been familiar with the internal administration of the hospital organized for British troops, being herself one of the volunteer nurses, has written a history of it—under the title of *Ismeer*. She dwells on touching instances of moral sufferings rather than physical—consequently the work will have a fine sale in England.

If Miss Nightengale, the heroine nurse, now quietly reposing on her laurels at Derby, should publish strictures, as she might, on the slow-coach movements of the surgeons where operations were performed at a hospital in Constantinople, the ears of some of the great army surgeons would tingle. Let it be remembered that she broke open a public store-house to obtain necessary food for the starving, dying patients, when the officers refused to open the door till a thousand and one official papers had been signed and counter-signed unnecessarily. Where were the surgeons all the while?

RAISING OPIUM IN ALABAMA.—A writer proposes the attempt of raising the large white poppy in that State, and thinks the manufacture of opium would be a profitable enterprise. Children and females could manage a good part of the labor, which is light and agreeable occupation.

The climate is unquestionably favorable to a strong growth. Vast fields of poppies are grown in Belgium and some parts of France, not for the opium, however, but for the oil, extracted from the seed, which is used with white lead or zinc, for producing a beautiful white paint that does not turn yellow, like linseed oil exposed to light.

Just at sundown, those having care of the opium poppies, make several slight cuts lengthwise on the seed bulb, before they become ripe. A milky juice immediately exudes, which thickens in the sun next morning, and is then scraped off. This product is pure opium. Any one of the Southern States in which cotton is grown, might produce an opium crop, annually, for exportation, that would yield an immense revenue.

ECONOMICAL SURGERY.—If he is the best physician who knows when not to give medicine, the best surgeon is the one who relieves the patient with the fewest operations. The art of trusting to nature rather than a surgical instrument, constitutes the greatness of a surgeon. But he is a profound student in the laws that govern the animal structure, whose experience enables him to judge correctly how far nature may probably assist in repairing a lesion. Those who cut and slash whenever an opportunity presents, as though unfortunate humanity was made to be tortured scientifically, are unfit to practise a noble profession. Economical surgery consists in doing no more than is absolutely demanded by an exigency. Beyond that, the operator is culpable at the bar of public opinion.

MEDICAL MILLENNIUM.—After years of hot vituperation and open expressions of contempt for each other, the old lions and lambs, representing the different medical belligerents, under the name of new and old schools, fatigued with unprofitable controversy, which gained no admiration for either party, there seems now to be a period of repose—a volcanic eruption may be incubating, but it is far better if it should prove a permanent peace. Quarreling about religious creeds, never made better Christians, nor has anything been gained for medical science by a dogged resolution to make all mankind take a particular kind of physic. Let the people employ whoever they prefer, and the strife should be to mitigate human sufferings, but not to prevent a neighbor from earning his daily bread because he entertains a theory of disease different from our own.

FILLING TEETH.—It seems that M. Sorel, of Paris, in discovering a new kind of plastering for rooms, also hit upon another step in the progress of dentistry. There has been an opinion entertained that gold would by and by be laid aside, an account of the expense, and a substitute found. The hard pressure made by the dentist in filling with gold, is a violence to be avoided if possible.

Oxyd of zinc—mixed with water, as a wash, and chloride of zinc, prepared in the same manner, when mixed, hardens and becomes impenetrable to the fluids of the mouth. Simplicity and economy should induce some of the operative dentists to give the new filling a thorough trial.

HILARITY.—As exercise with dumb-bells to one of sedentary habits, invigorates the muscular tissues, so a hearty laugh is occasionally necessary to keep up the vital and intellectual tonic of a rational being. A simpering smile which some have the faculty of exhibiting, in season as well as out of season, indicates more self-command than generosity; but an explosive laugh,—one that really shakes the sides, like a bomb-shell thrown into an enemy's camp,—stirs up the elements of good-nature unexpectedly, and thus conduces to hilarity, where it otherwise might have remained inactive,—although essential to the full development of all the best qualities of the heart.

FYFE'S ANATOMY.—If some medical publisher has the courage to republish Fyfe's Compendium of Human and Comparative Anatomy, from the Edinburgh edition of 1815, it would be in demand. It is by far the minutest system extant. No modern works will compare with it for distinct minuteness. A student who studies Fyfe faithfully, will be a superior anatomist. He has no equal for exact description in the fewest words. Late works generalize considerably, and intermix physiology very freely; but Mr. Fyfe keeps strictly to the text. Anatomists were anatomists in his day. How many in a hundred, now-a-days, at the close of a lecture term, could, with a needle, transfix any muscle, artery or nerve on the extremities of a subject?

OPHTHALMOSCOPE.—After reading the minute directions of oculists respecting the best method of using this instrument, a query obtrudes itself upon the mind, thus: Is it not injurious to a good eye to explore its interior with a strong, concentrated light?—If so, how much worse for one in which the vision is imperfect!

The object of this paragraph is simply to caution young practitioners not to ruin entirely an eye that is imperfect in function, by attempting to discover the causes of its defects by a long or continued exploration with the ophthalmoscope.

MARRIAGES.

Dr. Addison Davis, of Lynn, Mass., to Miss Emily T. Davis, of Boston. Sewall F. Parcher, M. D., of East Boston, to Mrs. Mary E. Libby, of M.

DEATHS.

Dr. B. H. Perkins, of Cuthbert Co., Geo., went to Americus, on the 8th inst., with \$1500, to pay a bank debt, but was entrapped into a gambling house and lost it all. He then opened an artery in his arm and bled to death. A public meeting was then called by the Mayor, and resolutions adopted to rid the town of gambling houses.

In Boston, Dr. Jonas W. Chapman, 51. Dr. Chas. A. Hentz, at Marianna, Florida, on the 4th inst. A year has not yet elapsed since we were pained to communicate the sad intelligence of the death of Prof. Hentz's gifted and accomplished wife, the late Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz.

Oct. 24, at Ballyvernon, Co. Down, Ireland, Mary, wife of W. H. Moore, Esq., M. D.

In Parsonsfield, Maine, Dr. John Buzzell Sweat, of typhus, an excellent citizen, who is greatly deplored by the people.

In New York, says the Herald,

"Dr. James H. Bogardus, of Kingston, Ulster county, N. Y., died at the Girard house on Sunday, after a very short illness, under singular circumstances.

"The deceased was about 43 years old, of the highest respectability, and ranked the first in his profession in the county in which he resided. For about two years he had been engaged to Miss Isabella Hamilton, a young lady, also a resident of Kingston, and on two occasions, days were fixed for their nuptials, on each of which a death presented a barrier to the consummation of their wishes. On the former instance, the death of his brother's child rendered a postponement of the day of their contemplated marriage necessary, and both the doctor and his affianced bride attended the funeral. On the second occasion fixed for their union, Miss Hamilton's sister lost a child, and again they both attended a funeral service instead of their own marriage ceremony.

"On Monday of last week, Dr. Bogardus came to the city and put up at the Girard House, in Chambers street, and on retiring, complained to Mr. Davis, with whom he was well acquainted, that he was quite unwell. The following day, not feeling able to leave his bed, Dr. Sayre and other eminent physicians were called in and consulted. After several days attendance they came to the conclusion that there was something more than disease of the body in the case of their patient, and they intimated to him the fact, whereupon Dr. Bogardus frankly informed his medical advisers that he was deeply attached to a young lady, to whom he was to be married on Tuesday (yesterday), that their marriage had been twice frustrated by death, and he now feared that his own illness would prove a third interposition to his happiness.

"Dr. Sayre perceiving the sad effect which the fear of another disappointment had upon his mind, suggested the propriety of sending a telegraphic dispatch to Miss Hamilton to come to New York without delay, for the purpose of carrying out the wishes of Dr. Bogardus. The dispatch was accordingly sent, and Miss

Hamilton arrived about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning, and as early as possible some of their friends, residing in Newark, were sent for to attend the marriage ceremony. At 1 o'clock the same day, Dr. Sayre visited his patient, and found him so much better that he considered that it would be unnecessary for him to attend again. At half past 2 o'clock the parties were united, and Dr. Bogardus expressed his thankfulness in being enabled to carry out his intentions of marriage to the lady in question. Their friends then retired for a few moments for the purpose of partaking of some refreshments. He then remarked that he felt so much better that he would get up, and at once proceeded to raise himself in bed. His bride perceiving his efforts to rise, went to assist him, only to discover that he was expiring in her arms. She instantly sprang to the bell and rang for assistance; but before their friends could reach the room he was a corpse."

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 22.

Edward Bullard 10 ds., Alvin Bramball 1 mo., Nancy J. Clark 6 mos., Ada C. Nason 9 do., Elizabeth Clark 19 do., Lilla C. Robins 19 do., Charles F. Tuttle 12 do., Mary Splane 9 do., Patrick Daley 4 do., Mary A. Fox 15 do.; Charles McDonald 1 mo., Nancy B. Homer 48 do., Georgiana Heilge 4 yrs., Thomas Lombard 2 do., John T. Bregan, 3 do., Rose Connelly 40 do., Honora Kennedy 3 do., Margaret Moran 58 do., John Keefe 60 do., Catherine Manning 23 do., Timothy Sullivan 2 do., Edward Lee 8 do., Mary Creahan 2 do., Thomas Feely 3 do., Anna T. Emerson 10 do., Ann Ferguson 26 do., Geo. T. Byrnes 2 do., Mary A. Howe 21 do., Bridget Sullivan 18 do., Henry Wessels 3 do., Catharine Maloney 45 do., Ellen McKenney 2 do., Ann Moriarty 3 do., Daniel Cronan 7 do., Stanislaus Ulrich 3 do., Margaret J. Graig 4 do., Sally Stetson, 72 do., Jane Reid 2 do., Margaret Reid 4 do., Daniel Gibson 55 do., John F. Lombard 14 mos., Cornelius Ahern 12 do., Catharine Power 15 do., Elizabeth O'Keefe 11 do., Daniel Stevens 17 do., Eliza McGrath 18 do., John Riley 9 do., William H. Lewey 7 do., Josephine Wells 11 do., Harriet A. Bartlett 9 do., Margaret V. Graham 15 ds., Dennis Donahoe 35 yrs., Patrick Donovan 5 do., Michael Donovan 48 do., Adelaide Burbank 6 do., Daniel O'Sullivan 26 do., Michael Clancy 34 do., John Flynn 28 do., Mary A. Walsh 2 do., George Lynham 4 do., Theresa J. Donaldson 11 do., Mary Desmond 28 do., Ellen Splane 3 mos., Owen Connor 16 do., Ellen Donovan 9 do., Lucy Parsons 79 yrs., Ann Golden 35 do., John Egan 2 do., John McFarland 3 do., Mary E. Hodges 20 do., Ann Quinn 30 do., Mary Billings 65 do., Woodhouse L. Wheeler 56 do., James Trainor 4 do., Wm. A. Bell 5 do., Ellen F. Pratt 10 do., Lewis McLauthlin 17 mos., Elizabeth M. A. Banks 11 dys., Thomas C. Linton 2 mos., Daniel O'Keefe 16 do., John Murphy 1 day, James O. Edgerton 40 yrs., Ninian C. Betton 68 do., Lucy Cole 63 do., James Barry 61 do., James Murphy 8 do., Mary E. Matthews 34 do., John Brown 24 do., Susan Haskell 63 do., Rebecca W. Foster 7 do., Hibbard Ramsey 42 do., Abigail Battis 53 do.

DISEASES. — Accident 2, congestion of brain 2, burned 2, consumption 13, convulsions 4, croup 3, debility 3, dropsy 2, infantile diseases 3, unknown diseases 2, typhoid fever 1, scarlet fever 25, whooping cough 3, disease of heart 3, inflammation of lungs 6, teething 5; other diseases 1 each, 11; total 91. Born in United States 70, Ireland 21.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

DECEMBER 10, 1856.

NUMBER 11.

VESALIUS.

Andreas Vesalius was born on the last day of December, in the year 1514. His father, the apothecary, being attached to the service of Margaret, governor of the Netherlands, aunt of the Emperor Charles the Fifth, Andreas was born at Brussels. He was sent as a boy to study at Lournain, where he made very rapid progress in all branches of knowledge taught to him. He manifested a great taste for science, and spent all his leisure upon practical research into the mechanism of the lower animals. He became very proficient in the scholarship of the day, so that in his great work, written before he had allowed his skill to rust, the Latin style is singularly pure. Violarius, who took pains afterwards to show that Vesalius was but a shallow fellow, and that his knowledge of anatomy, in particular, was not much more than skin-deep, protested that he must have found some good Latin scholar to write the Latin of his books. The good Latin written by Vesalius while he was comparatively fresh from his studies at Lournain, became corrupted by disuse. The stagnant air of an imperial court favored the decay of his scholarship.

That Vesalius mastered not only Latin but Greek also, accurately at Lournain, may be inferred from the fact that he wrote Greek annotations to the works of Galen. It is more certainly proved by the confidence with which the great Venetian printer, Aldinus Punta, in after years, made application to Vesalius alone for a corrected text of Galen, and for castigation of a Latin rendering of Galen's works. The application was only in part responded to. Greek and Latin were sources of pleasure to the young anatomist, only because they enabled him to read medical books. Then, also, as soon as he discovered the corruptness of translations generally, he was not content to study the Arabians by aid of their interpreters, but betook himself to a scholar learned in Arabic and Hebrew, Lazarus Hebaeus de Friglio.

With that teacher he read Avicenna in the original Arabic, and afterwards was able to write for himself a paraphrase of the ten books of Rhazes to the Emir Almanzo.

From Lournain, the youth was sent to Paris, where he studied physic under a most eminent physician, Parolus Sylvius, otherwise Jacques dé la Bœe. Sylvius found his new pupil disagreeably acute. It was the practice of that illustrious professor to read to his class Galen on the use of parts. He began fairly, and when he had reached the middle of the first book, where the anatomy commences, he said: "Gentlemen, we now come to a part too difficult for the comprehension of beginners. Were I to go through it with you, we should only be bewildering each other." To save trouble, therefore, the professor took a flying leap over all intervening matter, and descended on the fifth book, through which he cantered quietly to the tenth section. From the rest of the work he made selections, to the consideration of which he either gave a single lecture, or to which he devoted five or six lessons at most. This course of professional study was illustrated sometimes with the dissection of some portion of a dog, prepared for the purpose by a surgeon under the professor's eye. This was always thrown away on the third day, when it became unpleasant to the smell.

Sylvius believed, like his brethren, that the anatomy of all flesh was contained in Galen. If he found anything in his dog that puzzled him, the fault always lay with the animal: the dog was wrong. Often the learned man—more used to turn over leaves of books than strips of muscle—blundered about his little preparation, vainly searching for some blood-vessel or tendon that he meant to show. At the third of his practical demonstrations witnessed by Andreas, the teacher was so much surprised at the confused construction of the animal before him, that he called upon the new-comer, whose passion for dissecting was well known, to help him through his difficulty.

The professor's patience was tried further by the fact that Andreas Vesalius, by the intensity of his own enthusiasm, infected his companions with a pitiless zeal after correct ideas of anatomy. Whenever Sylvius, unable to find some vein or nerve, excused its non-appearance and passed glibly on, he made work for his pupils; they slipped down, when he was gone, hunted the dog through for the missing part, dissected it out for their master with great neatness, and triumphantly called his attention to it on his next appearance.

The influence of a commanding mind and of a strong enthusiasm was exercised over his associates in a yet more striking way by the ambitious student. He caused some of the young men to share his own impatience at the dog-anatomy to which they were confined. Pleasure-loving youths, moved by his impulse, were to be found with him, haunting at ghostly hours the Cemetery of the Innocents. Once when he went with a fellow-pupil to the Mont-fauçon, where the bodies of executed criminals were deposited, and bones were plentiful, they found themselves attacked by a pack of fierce dogs. Masters of the situation, they would, by no means, let a bone be touched, and there ensued so hard a battle with them, that the young anatomist believed the hour of fate had come. It seemed, for a short time, likely that the tables being turned upon him, his own body would be dissected for the benefit of that very class to which so many of his victims had belonged.

Another of the teachers under whom Andreas studied in Paris, was a man of great renown, Gauthien d'Andenscark, or, to speak learnedly, Guintherius. He was physician in-ordinary to King Francis I. Guintherius, before he went to Paris, had been Greek Professor at Lourain. At Paris, he occasionally ventured so far as to dissect human beings. We run over three years to state here that in his *Institutiones Anatomicæ*, published in 1536, Guinther took occasion to specify Andreas Weralius (the classic V had not, at that time, been adopted in the name) a youth of great promise, Vesalius then being twenty-one years old. Again, after three more years had elapsed, in publishing a new edition of his *Institutiones*, Guinther states that he had been indebted largely to the helping hand of Andreas Vesalius, a youth most diligent in the study of anatomy. The youth was then already himself beginning work upon a book that was to produce a revolution in the science. At about the age of nineteen, however, the pupilage of

Andreas at Paris, under Sylvius and Guinther, had been broken off by the French wars. He retired then to his Alma Mater at Lourain. Here continuing his studies, he, for the first time, openly demonstrated from the human subject, offering to the scholars of Lourain, an unaccustomed spectacle. He had himself, in Paris, only twice been present at a demonstration of the kind.

During this sojourn at Lourain, it happened one day, that Veralius walked with his friend Gemma Fusius outside the gates. By accident, their country ramble brought them to the Tybunn of Lourain, the spot on which it was not only usual to execute criminals, but also to expose their bodies. It was a place of human bones, and of men's corpses in all stages of corruption. To such a spot the friends came very naturally, led to it, no doubt, by a familiar path, for where else was there a retired nook to be found, of which the scenery was more completely in accordance with the taste of an anatomist? Vesalius loved nature with the ardor of true genius. He was a man who could have boiled his kettle with more pleasure in the valley of Jehosophat, than in the vale of Tempe. Why should he not? Is the thigh-bone that propped up a lord of creation, less to be honored than a primrose stock? Or, is the cup that has contained the brain and wit of man, to be regarded with less tender reverence than buttercups and pumpkins?

Vesalius and Gemma Fusius, whose humor it was to admire nature in the mechanism of the human body, looked at the dead men with learned eyes. The botanist in the field looks out for specimens to carry home; so the anatomist Veralius looked greedily about him, for, in such a place, the obvious question was,—could he make any little addition to his *hortus siccus* of odd joints and bones?

“Now, there had been executed on that spot, a noted robber, who, since he deserved more than ordinary hanging, had been chained to the top of a high stake, and roasted alive. He had been roasted by a slow fire made of straw, that was kept burning some distance below his feet. In that way, there had been a dish cooked for the fowls of heaven, which had been regarded by them as a special dainty. The sweet flesh of the delicately roasted thief, they had preferred to every other; his bones, therefore, had been elaborately picked, and there was left suspended on the stake a skeleton, dissected out and cleaned by many beaks, with rare precision. The dazzling skeleton,

complete and clean, was lifted up on high before the eyes of the anatomist, who had been striving, up to this time, to piece together such a thing out of the bones of many people, gathered as occasion offered. That was a flower to be plucked from its tall stem.

Mounting upon the shoulders of his friend, and aided by him from below, young Andreas ascended the charred stake, and tore away whatever bones he found accessible, breaking the ligaments which tied the legs and arms to the main trunk. The trunk itself was bound by iron chains so firmly to the stake, that it was left there hanging. With stolen bones under their clothes, the two young men returned into Lourain.

But in the evening, Vesalius who went out alone to take another walk, did not return in haste, and suffered the town gates to close against him. He had resolved to spend the night in a field; while honest men were sleeping in their beds, he meant to share the vigil of the thieves. There was the trunk of the skeleton yet to be had. At midnight, none would dare to brave the spectacle of fleshly horrors, to say nothing of such ghostly accidents as might befall them among the bodies of the wicked, under rain, moon, stars, or flitting night-clouds. Certain, therefore, that no man would come to witness his offence, Vesalius, at midnight, again climbed the tree to gather the remaining blossom. By main force he deliberately wrested the whole set of bones out of the grasp of the great iron fetters, and then, having removed his treasure to a secret spot, he buried it. In the morning he returned home empty-handed. At leisure then, and carefully, he smuggled through the gates, bone after bone. But when the perfect skeleton was set up in his own house, he did not scruple to display it openly, and to demonstrate from it, giving out that it had been brought by him to Lourain from Paris. This act of plunder was, however, too bold to escape attention. Vesalius afterwards was banished from Lourain for this offence.

In the next year, 1535, Andreas, having completed his twentieth year, served as a surgeon in the army of the Emperor, Charles V., during the Gallic war. He was then earning a salary, and finding subjects for dissection on the battle-field. Soon afterwards he went to Italy, making his head-quarters apparently at Venice, and displaying his zeal and ability as an anatomist, by demonstrating publicly under the shadow of the most famous universities. Andreas Vesalius at once excited the attention

of the learned men of Italy, as a remarkable youth of twenty-one or two, who could name, with his eyes blindfolded, any, even the smallest, human bone put into his hand; who was deeply versed in comparative anatomy, and had more accurate and practical knowledge of the structure of the human frame than any greybeard of the time had dared to master. He was a youth who had turned all the ardor and passion of his age into the service of that one mysterious pursuit, at which his neighbors shuddered and admired; a youth who was at the same time an able scholar, and who could declaim his knowledge in sound Latin from the lecture-table. The intensity of his zeal, and his own habit of mastery, won for him in Italy so prompt a recognition of his genius, that he was only twenty-two years old when he was offered (in 1537) a professorship at Padua, created for him. It was the first purely anatomical professorship, and in selecting it, Vesalius became the first professor of anatomy who taught the science, and received a salary for so doing from the fund of any university.

A good deal of morbid curiosity, a corrupt taste for witnessing dissections of the human body as a novel spectacle, no doubt increased the number of the new professor's hearers. He was doing a bold thing, his lectures were a striking innovation on the tameness of conventional routine, and his fame grew with proportionate rapidity. He continued to hold his professorship at Padua during seven years, but he was at the same time professor in two other universities. He was sought by the academies for the same reason that causes an attractive performer to be sought at the same time by rival managers. Wherever he appeared, the theatre would fill. When already appointed at Padua, he was graced with a professorship also at Bologna, in which town he put together and compared the skeletons of a man and a monkey. Being thus doubly a professor, he accepted also the urgent invitation of Cosmo, Duke of Florence, who desired that he should take office as professor at Pisa. Cosmo secured his man, not only by offering a salary of six hundred crowns for a short course of demonstrations, but also by commanding that the authorities should furnish him with a free supply of bodies, whether from the cemetery or scaffold. In each university, the services of the professor were confined to a short course of demonstrations, so that his duties were complete when he had spent, during the winter, a few weeks at each of the

three towns in succession. He then returned to Venice.

At Venice, Andreas Vesalius studied indefatigably, at the same time that he practised physic. He not only solicited the bodies of condemned criminals, but also begged of magistrates, that they would sentence such men to the modes of death that he from time to time suggested, in order that he might obtain physiological knowledge from his post-mortem examinations. He was not afraid also to beg that executions might be delayed when he was well supplied with subjects, so that there might be material for him to work upon at a more leisure time. Furthermore, he watched — and incited his pupils to watch — all the symptoms of men dying of a fatal malady; and it was usual with him and them to note where, after death, such men were buried. For their bodies, night visits were paid to the church-yard, either by Vesalius or by some of his disciples, and a diligent search was then made for the accurate determination of the cause of death. Many a corpse was in this way secretly conveyed by Andreas to his chamber, and concealed in his own bed.

At Padua and Bologna, where there was on bold Cosmo to back the teacher, no public means were ventured upon for the supply of the new lecture-table. It was supplied without trouble to Vesalius by the enthusiasm of the students, who became resurrectionists on his behalf. Thus it happened that on one occasion his class was edified by the emotion of a portly Petrarch under a monk's hood, who had sought in the excitement of anatomy a refuge from his grief for the recent death of a too well-known Laura. He sat down thinking of his old acquaintance with a sigh: —

"Mai non fu. 'in haste, ore sè ch'ar Vedessi,
Gull, che veder vonrei, poi ch'is nol vidi—"

and started with a shout that betrayed all his secret when he saw her stretched out upon the demonstrator's table. She had been disinterred by the students as a friendless person, and whose body, therefore, might be lectured from without the risk of exciting any active outcry against desecration of the dead. Vesalius, who hated monks as false pretenders and obstructors of sound knowledge, greatly enjoyed his dilemma. During the first three years of office as professor, Andreas did not depart, or wish to depart, from the approved rule of study. He praised the works of Galen in good faith, and made use of the anatomical writings of that ancient author as the text-book upon which

he founded all his demonstrations. With practical experience, however, the conviction grew, not only that the anatomy of Galen was extremely incomplete, but that it was often wrong. He had marked down upon the margins of his text-book, as he detected them, many discrepancies between the text of Galen and the human body. These variations, he found as he went on, were constant. Then, dissecting lower animals, and monkeys more especially, he made comparison between their parts and the corresponding parts in man, until he became convinced that Galen very rarely wrote from actual inspection of the human subject; that he had been a great anatomist, but that his teaching was based on the belief that the structure of a monkey was a direct copy of the structure of a man. Galen had not often ventured to run counter to the tide of superstition, and defile himself by too close contact with the dead of his own race. This fact being ascertained with certainty, Vesalius took more than usual pains to note every discrepancy between the text of Galen and the actual parts which it endeavored to describe. The list of these variations — annotations upon Galen — forming in a short time a volume of considerable thickness.

Having thus seen reason to distrust the foundations upon which the whole of medical science was, in his time, built, Vesalius, at the age of twenty-five, resolved to reconstruct more durably, the science of anatomy. He perceived only one way in which this could be done: he would dissect minutely through the human body, and write down all that he found there carefully and accurately in a well-digested book. He would collate upon each point the evidence obtained under the scalpel, with the writings of the authorities who occupied the schools before him, would retain their nomenclature, and repeat their truths, but rectify their almost countless errors. To this bold enterprise, after his bold genius had once admitted the idea, Vesalius was further impelled by the encouragement of his friends, and chiefly by the incitements of a colleague in the University of Padua, Mark Anthony Genua, and of the patrician Wolfgang Heniost. So it happened that, at the age of twenty-five, Andreas Vesalius, already a famous teacher, began to write from actual scrutiny, his text-book of *The Fabric of the Human Body*. He at the same time practised medicine, and expressed loudly and often his regret that the art of healing and the science of anatomy were followed as two separate pursuits. He declared a cor-

rect knowledge of anatomy to be essential both to the physician and surgeon, and he taught the science in his writings with a constant reference to medicine and surgery, bitterly ridiculing those practitioners who got their knowledge of disease out of a study of syrups.

It is impossible to tell in a few paragraphs, all that is known to have been done before the time of Vesalius, for the promotion of the study of true human anatomy. In very ancient times, it is proved that there was no lack of dissectors, those of the Alexandrine school used the knife freely on the human subject. Herophilus is said to have cut up and examined three hundred bodies, without reckoning his dissections. Of the anatomy of the ancients, however, nothing has been transmitted except what has come down to us in the extant works of Galen. Galen, it has been shown, dissected the lower animals and monkeys — rarely man. When contact with a corpse made expiations and ablutions necessary, it was not an easy thing to be an accurate anatomist. After the death of Galen, that chief still continued to hold sway for centuries over the world of medicine. The Arabians put implicit faith in him, and copied all his errors, adding many of their own.

In the middle ages, practical anatomy, when it attempted any inspection of the "Divine Image," was regarded as impiety; nevertheless, the first step in a right direction was made by Mundinus, about the year 1315. Mundinus, professor of medicine, at Bologna, between the years 1315-18, exhibited the public dissection of three bodies, and by so doing was the cause of great scandal. Alarmed by an edict of Pope Boniface VII, he gave up his dangerous experiment, but he had published a work, *De Anatome*, containing much original matter, which was adopted by the learned world, and prescribed to be read in all academies.

For three centuries this work continued to be in force as an authority. In the time of Vesalius, Mundinus was read commonly as a supplement to the anatomy contained in Galen, and if any anatomist had new facts to record, he edited Mundinus, and attached to the text of that author, his own experience in the form of commentary. In the year 1520, Mundinus had in that way been supplied with notes by Alexandro, Achillino, and edited by his brother Philothes at Bologna, and in 1521 the book of Mundinus was again amply illustrated by Goannes Carpus Berengarius, the best of the precursors of Vesalius. Mundinus wrote

succinctly, treating of parts in their natural order, but his information was not only succinct, but meagre—his style being obscure and barbarous, often incomprehensible.

His errors were so many that Matthew Curtius,—who spoke before Vesalius had shaken the old paramount authority,—said of Mundinus, "all that is right in him is Galen's, but his own matter is always wrong." Archilino was pronounced jejune; Berengarius diffuse, but really good. Carpus Berengarius introduced also into his edition, for the first time, pictures, by which the eye was enabled to comprehend the details given in the letter-press. These pictures were rude, nineteen in number, and increased in another publication, two years afterwards, to twenty-two. These plates deserve to be remembered by anatomists as the first efforts that were made to facilitate their studies by depicting as well as describing the construction of the human frame. In 1534, Albert Duren depicted the symmetry of the body in four books, but rather as an artist than as an anatomist. The greatest painters, protected by Julius II and Leo X, had been allowed to study practically just so much anatomy as was required for the perfection of their art. Drawings from nature, of the superficial muscles, had been made by Leonardo da Vinci, Raffaele, and Michael Angelo. Representations of the anatomy of deep-seated parts immediately preceding the publication of the plates, issued by Vesalius, were edited in 1540, by Walter Henmann Ryff; and a more valuable set, in which the brain is well depicted, and its parts figured and named, was published by Balthasur Pistor. None of these works were at all calculated to shake to supremacy of Galen, or to create any revolution in anatomy. But they were indications of the ripeness of the field for work, like that to which Vesalius devoted himself with the whole fresh zeal of youth, and all the vigor of his genius.

The income derived by Andreas, from three professorships, and from his practice among the Venetians, perhaps also the prosperous worldly condition of his family, enabled him to spend money freely in the prosecution of his literary work. He took pains to secure not only for his descriptions of parts, but also for the representations of those to be published in his book, the utmost possible fidelity and beauty. It cost him not a little, to tempt able artists from their studies of the beautiful, to sit and paint, day after day, from a dissected corpse. Grudging no cost, he succeeded so well as to obtain for his book anatomical plates,

not only incomparably better than any that had been previously published, but more excellent as works of art than very many that have appeared since his day. The chief artist engaged with him in this labor, was Jean Calvar, native of Calvar, in the Duchy of Cleses. That artist studied during his best years in Italy, admiring chiefly the works of Raffaello and Titian. He was one of the most able of Titian's pupils, and so accurately seized his master's style and manner, that many works from the hand of Calvar, portraits especially, have been attributed to Titian. Rubens kept until his death, a Nativity by Calvar, that was remarkable for its effects of light; and Calvar is well known to many in our own day, as the painter of the portraits which accompany Vasari's lives; Calvar, then was the chief artist engaged upon the anatomical figures published by Vesalius, and this circumstance accounts for the fact that these figures were in their own time often attributed to Titian.

While Andreas was steadily at work upon his book, author and artist, (the other artists were Joanes Stephrus, and Nicolo Stopio,) making simultaneous progress; the first few plates were sent to the professor's father, who, it may be remembered, was apothecary to the Emperor. By him they were shown to Charles V, also to many of his most distinguished courtiers, and in this way the praise of the young anatomist first came to be spoken from imperial lips. In the year 1539, at the age of twenty-five, Vesalius issued to the public a few completed plates as an experiment. Being successful in Italy, they were largely pirated by Asenman, publishers, and many bad copies of these plates are therefore extant. The *Opus Magnum* was again to be preceded by another herald, an epitome of its six books, with illustrations of the choicest kind. In this epitome the matter was arranged, and the plates were chosen with a direct intent to supply that kind of information commonly wanted by surgeons. The chief care of the book was to describe and depict accurately those parts which are most frequently exposed to wounds, tumors, dislocations, and such ills of the flesh. It was to serve also as an index of the greater work. Although the epitome was finished first, and dedicated in due form to Philip, son and heir of the great Emperor, the actual publication of it was delayed until some months after the appearance of the full and perfect work, the *Corporis Humani Fabrica*, first published at Basle, in the year 1543, its author being at that time twenty-eight years old.

With the famous treatise of Veralius upon the fabric of the human body begins the history of anatomy as it is now studied. In that book the plates are throughout to the letter-press what the real subject is to the lecture of the demonstrator, and the references to the pictures are minute, distinct, and accurate. The groundwork of true human anatomy is laid throughout the book, with an exactness never before approached. The work is strictly anatomical, but it includes many very important references to the allied subjects of physiology and surgery. The descriptions of parts are given in well-polished Latin, with the clearness of a man who is quiet master of his subject; and as he goes on, the author makes a merciless comparison between the actual structure found in man, and the description of it found in Galen. He shows finally, by cumulative proof, that Galen taught from a knowledge, not of men, but of brutes. Because, in showing this, Vesalius proved the errors not only of Galen, but of the whole mass of his brethren who had gone to Galen only for their information, and whom he would compel to sit at his own feet for better knowledge, he knew well that he was provoking all the brotherhood to war; he therefore made his onslaught upon error in a fighting mood. Old men were not willing to tolerate dictation from a boy of twenty-eight. Professors and physicians who maintained a reputation for wisdom in their universities and in the world by propping it up on an intimate acquaintance with the works of Galen, were not disposed to let their prop be struck away; they clung to it tenaciously. Sylrius, at Paris, was especially indignant at the scientific heresies of his late pupil; he attacked his book with violence. Vesalius, therefore, wrote to his old master a letter full of friendly feeling and respect, inquiring wherein he had been guilty of error. Sylvius replied to this, that he liked his old pupil very well, and would be glad to call him friend, but that he could do so only on condition that he would show proper respect for Galen. If he failed in that, he was to expect no quarter either from Sylvius or any pupils of his school.

[To be concluded.]

Dropsy.—The Lancet relates the case of a lady who died of the dropsy, in Blackstone, England, who in five years was *tapped one hundred and forty times*, and had more than *three thousand pounds* of water drawn from her body.

SPECTRAL ILLUSIONS.

I have spoken of sickness as an element of sea life, as a part of its very nature. Said one who had sounded all the depths of this terrible evil, "I cannot define it. It is indefinable. We know nothing of its cause. I can only say it is *sea, sea, sea*. For the most part my experience of it was of the common order. But once the mind became turned over as well the stomach. The brain became disordered. I can best state what was my condition, by relating my experience. I was lying in my berth one evening, — the light burning brightly, — too weak to feed myself or even to think, when I saw sitting opposite to me a man with his hat on, dressed in a drab suit, his legs crossed, and either reading or lost in deep thought. I did not see any book. I was not at all disturbed or surprised at seeing him. He seemed as naturally there in his place as I was in mine. He attracted my attention as would any other person who had in the usual way come in and had taken his seat in my parlor. While he was there I took a tumbler of water from the near table, and carried it very slowly to my lips. But upon attempting to drink, the ends of my fingers and thumb touched my mouth, while I, in the slowest possible manner, opened my hand as if to assure myself that I had not held in it the glass. Again. I took up an orange, and slowly carried it to my mouth. But again was I disappointed, but the disappointment, as in the case of the tumbler of water, did not trouble me. I was exceedingly thirsty, but still the disappearance of orange and glass gave me no annoyance. Now there was no table in the state-room; there was no orange, and no tumbler of water. There was no man, and yet the consciousness of the presence of these, and of my having handled some of them, was as complete as any fact of experience during my whole life. As if however some mistake might exist with regard to the man in drab, with his hat on and his crossed legs, I should have risen from my bed and have gone and spoken to him, but that my utter exhaustion made this impossible. But why not speak? Because it was my purpose to take hold of, or pass my hand through him. I was not asleep; I was not dreaming. The whole character of the phenomena contradicts entirely the notion of sleep. And as to its being a dream, I know too much of the stuff that dreams are made of to admit this idea for a moment. Dreaming has relation to nothing. It has no permanent memory. It is thinking,

with imperfect consciousness of the process, and hence imperfectly remembered, and for the most part made up of all sorts of incongruities. Its parts have no relations to other things, and are lost, dropped out of, or through the mind as having no place in it, or in any of its operations. Now the state I was in, in that state-room of the steamer ———, was one of perfect, entire, and consistent consciousness. It is present to me to-day; an act of memory as perfect as that mental action ever produces. There was the man, the glass of water, the table, the orange, facts of sense, which produced corresponding related action. The harmony was complete. And yet there was no man, glass, orange, or table, and I know of no former experience which could by the memory of them have presented such a picture to my eye, and what I so deliberately and carefully examined. I have written my case out at some length, because I think it is not without interest, and it may be pleasant for you to read, and to think of.

Sir Walter Scott, Sir David Brewster and others, have published books about illusions which contain remarkable instances. That of Nicholai, the celebrated Berlin book-seller and author of books, is a remarkable one. I met with it many years ago in books on legal medicine, in which it is regarded as a mental disease, in which the question of responsibility may come to be involved. Quite as remarkable a case as that occurred in Boston some years ago. The late Judge D——— was its subject. He described to me the apparitions by which he was visited. They were of the dead — his friends. They were moving about, talking to each other, and were as happy as people could be. Some were of a very early period of his life, and he described their dresses and manners. "They are always pleasant," said he. "I have no disagreeable apparitions." They continued to visit him to his death. He knew they were *appearances* only. They did not occupy space, for real persons and things were among them, but without disturbing the apparitions at all. His mind was as clear, as vigorous as ever it was. I have given to you an account of my own case because of its connection with a sickness which prostrated me almost fatally. I have not met with it as a result of that disease in any history of it. In its sudden termination it is unlike other instances. These last have depended on some more permanent condition of the brain, and have in some continued to recur a long time. — *Physician's Vacation*.

CONDITION OF MEDICINE AMONG THE BABYLONIANS AND PHœNICIANS.

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Epochs in intellectual progress different from the eras of political history — Principal epochs in the known history [of intellectual advancement — Creation of the world — Revival and arrangement of ancient learning by the Greeks — Rise of the Christian Religion — Discovery of America — Merit not less real because hidden — Its imperishable nature — Success not necessarily an indication of merit — Nimrod — Custom of the Babylonians respecting the sick — No professors of medicine — Astrologers — Soothsayers — Magicians — Pursuits of war and of traffic inimical to medical science — Human sacrifices of the Canaanites — False position assigned to Ham by the Hebrews.

The eras marking intellectual, moral, and social progress in human acquirements are quite different from those of great political and military events. The actual condition of the race of man, in the higher attributes of his character, has little connection with the revolutions of violence. It sympathizes but little with the brutal rage of the animal man. Possibly it may be retarded—it is never advanced—by the occurrence of those epochs, upon which common history delights to dwell; periods when war, with its devastating ravages — its sieges, its destruction of women and children, its starvation and disease, its rapine and conflagration, and its scenes of mutual slaughter accompanied by mutual curses — fills with hatred the hearts of men, and absorbs their utmost energies. The degrading influences of war and violence are inimical to the cultivation of the arts of peace, and to all moral and intellectual progress. The lapse of years and the rise of new generations are alone adequate to neutralize their baleful effects.

The beginning of the world was, of course, the first grand epoch in the history of the race. The knowledge then imparted was perfect, — divine. No intellectual haziness obscured the vision, no clouds of sin overshadowed the understanding. The deluge was a mere physical phenomenon. Subsequently to it, the chief object, for a time, was to repopulate the earth. In consequence of the migrations, wars, and the unsettled condition of the human family, much of the true wisdom of the ancient world was lost; or what little was retained served only, by its association with error and selfishness, to sustain ridiculous or savage customs. Egypt alone preserved, by a kind of blind reverence, a great part of the learning of the antediluvians. This — dragged to the light, digested, arranged, and promulgated by

the Greeks — served as a basis upon which that people builded the beautiful structures of science and civilization which characterized them as chief actors in the second great epoch in the intellectual and moral history of mankind. The third remarkable true era, in this history, may be referred to the period of the dissemination of the principles of the Christian religion; and the discovery of America was a fourth and last great epoch in the history of intellectual progress. All others were but the children of these. The spread of the Mahometan religion; the crusades; the introduction of habits of intemperance into civilized life by the hyperborean nations; the use of tobacco and tea; even the invention of printing, and the declaration of American independence, — either grew directly out of some of these great epochs, or became necessary to man, from a condition of things arising indirectly in consequence of them.

Such facts as these should inspire all young men, and especially Americans, with an ardor for the acquirement of useful knowledge. There is too much hurry in attempting to rise at a station of notoriety, for properly cementing a sufficient foundation for exalted worth. Popular celebrity perishes with the shouts of popular assemblies; while the truly great live over and over again, in the laboratories of the learned, or the closet of the student, through all generations. The tinsel of the actor is thrown aside at the conclusion of the play, — is finally destroyed, or it may be employed for the base purpose of decking the bodies of the unworthy; — but true merit, no matter how long or how deeply buried, remains the same; and, although hidden, perhaps, from present observation, like the bright nugget of pure gold, may be drawn at last from its long resting-place, and astonish by its beauty, and enrich by its value, ages and nations far away in the deep future.

The best elaborated wisdom is not always for its own times. It is hard to withdraw the attention of a nation or age from some leading idea which absorbs it; — no matter how important the principles may be that are presented for consideration. Sometimes it is wise to store carefully away for others, what the present will not receive or cannot use, — as the knowledge of the antediluvians was stored and preserved by the Egyptians for the use of the modern world. The appearance of present success is not a criterion of real merit or ultimate respect. Crops of grain may appear excellent in their season, and some even be ac-

counted best, because the crops of other seasons have been cut down, and have passed out of sight; but the record — history — on a comparison of the merits of different seasons, will humble the pretensions of many, and give due honor to the prolific few. So it is with the ages of the world. In the standing field of wheat, cheat and the blasted grain are often counted with the best, and their imperfection not seen; but when all is cut down, and the time of separation comes, the value of the good, and the deformity and worthlessness of the bad, will be duly appreciated. So when men die, just judgment will sooner or later be meted out to all — although, during life, this is sometimes impossible. Alexander the Great was glorified to the utmost extent of human ingenuity, in his own country and in his own time; Socrates was put to death by the order of a court of his countrymen, after a formal trial. Posterity can spare Alexander, but not Socrates.

Nearly at the same time that Menes began to reign in Egypt, his nephew, Nimrod, reigned in Babylon, and his brother, Canaan, settled in the western border of Asia Minor. What is written of Nimrod, after allowing for the peculiarities of the circumstances by which he was surrounded, is very similar to what is stated of Menes. Both appear to have been gentlemen of good acquirements — skilled in war, policy, and legislation. They were builders of cities, and interested in the welfare of their subjects. Of the early history of the Canaanites not so much is known; but, judging from the proud position they afterwards held, under the name of Phœnicians, no rational doubt can be entertained of an ancestry eminent for wisdom.

In Babylon there existed a singular institution respecting the sick. "Such as are diseased among the Babylonians, they carry into some public square; they have no professors of medicine, but passengers in general interrogate the sick person concerning his malady, that if any person has either been afflicted with a similar disease, or seen its operation, he may communicate the process by which his own recovery was effected, or by which, in any other instance, he knew the disease to be removed." (Herod. Clio, xcvi.) Speaking of this custom, Rollin remarks, "We discover in those early times the origin of Physic." To this custom, also, Larcher attributes the dawn of medical science. These inferences are not warranted by the existence of the custom. The warlike and ambitious character of Nimrod, his fearlessness, and notorious contempt

for religion, and for the power of the gods; the situation of his kingdom, subject, as it was, to continual interruptions by vagabond tribes of lawless men, amply explain why such a science as that of medicine should give way to the more glaring, and perhaps more immediately important, arts of war and politics. The profession of medicine must, under such circumstances, have fallen into neglect; until in later days the explicit assertion of Herodotus, that "*they have no Professors of Medicine*," can excite no emotions of surprise.

That the nations of the East lost, ere long, the knowledge of the science of medicine, appears also, in the fact, that great numbers of astrologers and Chaldeans were employed in the courts of Eastern princes, to be consulted in times of disease, as well as of public danger. An extremely common source of fallacy is to confound sequents with consequents; or to associate events with agencies in accordance with measurements of time. The knowledge of astronomy was well understood by the Eastern nations, in very remote times. Beneficent seasons being constantly associated with certain signs in the heavens — the ascendancy of certain stars, or the situation of certain constellations, while unfavorable ones were observed to accompany certain different appearances in the heavenly bodies — it is no wonder that such peculiarities should, at length, become regarded as the causes, rather than the accompaniments, of terrestrial changes.

To believe the human body to be subject to the same influences that were supposed to act upon nature and the seasons, was but a short and natural transition, or rather extension, of faith. Finally, to introduce endless details, and lay down complicated rules for the examination of the heavenly bodies, and the interpretation of their signs; thus reducing Astrology to the condition of an art, difficult to learn, and of mysterious power, was merely acting under the commonest traits of human nature.

Soothsayers predicted events upon the authority of signs, depending upon the interpretations of appearances and changes in bodies, either animal or otherwise, which were not astrological.

The class of men called Chaldeans were, without doubt, the Magi, or Magicians. Eastern nations are extremely expert in the arts of natural magic to this day.

To many it seems surprising that such characters could have so successfully imposed upon the credulity of the ancients. But it should be borne in mind, that the professors of these

arts actually did possess much real knowledge, and that they, without doubt, did do great good, in many instances, by their advice and wise instruction. Having thus secured the general faith of mankind, it was no very difficult task to impose upon it successfully for a long time. Casting aside the assistance of human judgment, which was in their favor, they had at least an equal chance to succeed in their undertakings and predictions as they had to fail.

Considering, then, the low ebb of medical science in the East, it is not strange that frequent resort should be had to the employment of supernatural means of cure and prevention of diseases. When superstition in itself fails in curing diseases, skill in deceiving the senses may often be employed in deceiving the understanding.

Notwithstanding the employment of magical rites, in times of danger, by the Babylonians, the custom of exposing their sick to the inspection of passengers very plainly implies their belief in the efficacy of natural remedies. Whether this belief was derived from tradition, or from observation, is of no moment. Their conduct declares, that, while "they had no professors of medicine," they knew that there were such. So far from pretending to be the fathers of the medical art, they did not pretend to be the possessors of it, even in comparatively late times. As the history of the East advances, the Egyptian and the Greek physicians are observed to have been employed and munificently rewarded by the oriental princes.

The Phœnicians were also peculiarly situated, although differently from the Babylonians. Their location made them the merchants and carriers between the East and West. Commerce grew up under their fostering care. Whatever knowledge of navigation they may have been acquainted with, in their earliest ages, was undoubtedly preserved; but that science must also have been greatly improved by them. Their ships traversed every sea, and penetrated every inlet where anything could be bartered or piratically seized that would satisfy their inordinate thirst for gold. They became wealthy; their merchants were princes. But this searching after that which satisfies the physical appetite only indicates more or less inattention to the more exalted wants of the mind. It rendered hopelessly latent in the soul those impulses and desires which compel the mind to seek such intellectual employment as is best suited to its exalted

and spiritual nature. In some respects, the characters of nations are like those of individuals. The luxury and refinement of the Phœnicians, compared with their superstition, and their barbarous worship of the gods of heathenism, remind one of some extraordinary genius of eccentricity—one department of whose mind shines forth with unusual and startling brilliancy—filling the observer with admiration, almost with awe; to be but too surely followed by a painful shock at beholding some other department imbecile and drivelling.

Respecting the condition of medicine among the Phœnicians, history is quite unsatisfactory. The chief business of the Phœnicians was very different from the practice of physic. Historians who treat of them are busied with their wealth and their commerce. If judgment may be rendered from the conduct of the offspring of the Phœnicians, no very exalted position can be awarded to them, either in humanity or in medicine. About (B. C.) 412, while the Carthaginians were besieging Agrigentum in Sicily, the plague broke out in their army. To appease the wrath of the gods, whom they supposed to be unpropitious, they endeavored to abate the pestilence by sacrificing a child to Saturn, and by hurling into the sea numerous human victims, as an offering to Neptune; and it was a customary thing in times of pestilence, to offer in sacrifice great numbers of children to their gods, "seeking a remedy for their evils in guilt itself." Such barbarity in the Carthaginians, who may be regarded as a true type of their Phœnician ancestors, is certain evidence of their ignorance of the art of medicine. Such a custom appears more shocking and cowardly, as well as vividly indicative of ignorance as to the means proper for the prevention of disease, when it is remembered that most pestilence is occasioned by public and domestic offences against the morals of cleanliness, and all are greatly aggravated by them.

However, pestilential diseases were not the exclusive occasions for resorting to the alternative of sacrificing human victims by the Carthaginians. Their superstition was of the most gloomy kind. They were the true descendants of the Canaanites—the worshippers of Moloch. Conscious of guilt,—sensible of offences against conscience and natural morality, which their pursuits of traffic, and practices of craft and falsehood and cruelty, must have constantly kept vividly before their minds, when any great calamity overtook them, or seemed impending, they humbled themselves in the most abject penitence, and delivered

over to the fury of their gods, their most valuable possessions.

The chief characteristics of the Carthaginians were a low cunning, which leads to falsehood and prefers it, as an instrument of success, to knowledge and reason — unbounded avarice, and consequent inhumanity, and great superstition. Their greatest men were their warriors, and they succeeded as much by stratagem, and the exercise of their "punic faith," as by science and courage. They were servile and cowardly in adversity, and brutal in the hour of success. They were a people among whom politeness could not advance, and a sympathetic and humane art could not flourish.

During the battle before Himera in Sicily (B. C. 480), Hamilcar the Carthaginian commander was constantly offering to the gods sacrifices of living men, who were thrown upon a burning pile; and at last, seeing he had lost the day, he rushed into the flames himself, and there perished. Whether his voluntary death was the effect of superstition or despair may be a question. More than a century and a half afterwards, when the city of Carthage was in great danger from Agathocles, the citizens feeling guilty from having endeavored to defraud the gods, by substituting base-born children in their sacrifices, for those nobly born, endeavored to atone for their fault by sacrificing two children to Saturn. In addition, it is related that more than two hundred citizens gave themselves up as a similar sacrifice.

As the gloomy and horrible in religion must make a deeper impression upon the minds of devotees, the difficulty of impressing those living under such forms of religion with generous and humane sentiments, is greater than is met with in operating upon the kindly impulses of men under the control of more beneficent and versatile forms of superstition. One of the greatest difficulties in civilizing savage nations, addicted to the custom of immolating human victims, is to induce them to discontinue that practice.

The fact, then, that the Carthaginians offered human sacrifices, in times of pestilence, does not prove that they were regarded in the light of a remedy for disease, but they were employed as a propitiatory sacrifice on all occasions of danger. But the custom indicates great ignorance of medical knowledge among them. So great a sacrifice as that of human victims, and of beloved children, seemed to be by them considered sufficient to warrant and demand of the gods more success and prosperity than nat-

ural means could possibly secure; hence, most likely, the natural causes of epidemical and contagious diseases were not sought after, and the means of their prevention, or mitigation, or cure, were not employed or even known. But be the explanation what it may, the Carthaginians were ignorant of the science of medicine. The priests of Moloch and of Saturn were the same. The religion of the Phœnicians, as well as their progeny and characteristics, lived again in Carthage. The leaders of the people — those who presided over the religious ceremonies, and delivered the oracles of the gods, and uttered commands in their name, had other interests in view, besides the preservation of the science of medicine, or those of a kindred nature. Their power was greater, and their dignity more exalted, in smothering any tendency to inquiry in the minds of men respecting cause and effect, according to the rules of reason, and enforcing a belief of an utter dependence in all things upon the will and power of their gods, that is, upon their selfish directions and control. Many of the infants doomed to destruction by fond parents, it is to be hoped, were, after all, preserved and reared by the priests in the secrets and practices of their own order. Such is the most rational explanation of the uninterrupted tyranny the priests held over the Canaanites and Carthaginians, during the whole existence of those nations.

It is no wonder then that medicine found no advocates among the Carthaginians. "Ignorance is the mother of superstition." It is a principle of the human mind, established by the history of the world, that in no case where natural causes have been ascertained to conduce to any certain effect, will supernatural influences be admitted to have any share in its production. And the proposition may be reversed: that in every country and age, and under every dispensation — Christian, Pagan, or Satanic — every remarkable effect, the cause of which is not apparent, is either publicly or in the heart attributed to unnatural, unearthly influences. The credulity and incredulity of the human mind are alike unbounded.

There are some reflections that here naturally present themselves, which, although not intimately connected with the science of medicine, may not improperly be expressed.

The Egyptians, the Babylonians, and Phœnicians, are the most ancient nations, subsequent to the deluge, that were distinguished for enlightenment: they ran their courses in different channels, it is true, and in different

directions; but they have all found the same great ocean of modern civilization. Their influences have been great and beneficial, in different degrees and in different ways. Science, War and Politics, have all been learned from them. They were all the immediate descendants of Ham—at least their founders and law-givers were. Considering these facts, it is singular to observe the vulgar opinions concerning Ham. In the ordinary, and, not unfrequently, in the higher and better educated classes of men, Ham is looked upon with a feeling bordering upon contempt. He is considered to be the father of the negro race; and some have ventured to suggest that he was himself a negro. From what is recorded of Nimrod, of the Egyptians, and of the Canaanites, the intellectual culture of the descendants of Ham was greater in the earlier periods of history, than that of the posterity either of Japheth or Shem. There is no fact of ancient history better authenticated, than that the Canaanites, and among them the Phoenicians, were the descendants of Canaan, upon whom fell from Noah's lips the curse of slavery. Yet the ancient paintings represent the Phoenicians as flaxen haired, blue eyed, and of a florid complexion. As for the Ethiopians themselves, Herodotus (Polyn. lxx.) expressly describes two different kinds or races of them. Leaving out of view all inferences, respecting the races of men, supposed to have sprung from Ham, there is another, and a chief cause, for the contempt which is felt for Ham, to this day.

The influence of the Hebrew writings is prominent in religion and history. The Hebrews are the descendants of Shem. Upon their departure from bondage in Egypt, they adopted the determination to seize by violence the lands owned by the descendants of Canaan. The strength of the Canaanites was broken by the division of that people into separate tribes. This, combined with intestinal divisions, rendered the subjugation of this country a possible project to the Hebrews. Under such circumstances, it was policy in the Israelitish priests and leaders, not only to inculcate the belief of a promise to them of the lands of Canaan, but that the Canaanites had received a special curse, on account of the levity Ham was guilty of, upon an occasion when his father was drunk. The Canaanites, and the Babylonians, both received a large share of imprecation at the hands of the Jewish priesthood. The Egyptians, however, escaped, in a good measure, the maledictions of the Hebrews. Pos-

sibly there may have remained some sparks of gratitude in the hearts of the Jews, for their ancient preservation and long protection by the Egyptians. They could not forget, that through the advantages allowed them by the Egyptians, they had become numerous and wealthy, and that to their so-called captivity they owed, if not their very existence as a nation, at least they were prevented by it from falling into the barbarous superstition of the Canaanites. It was common in all ages of the Jewish national existence, to make journeys and visits into Egypt.

It would be an idle task to describe the state of medicine among the Hebrews. Their learning was mostly Egyptian; and much of it, and especially medicine, soon degenerated into the tricks of priestcraft. King Solomon was distinguished among them as a necromancer of great power; and also as a naturalist of ability (Josephus' Ant., book viii. chap. 2.): but his powers in charms, and in the use of supernatural agencies in the cure of disease, were the most regarded, and are yet celebrated in the traditions of the oriental nations.

FORMS OF LEPROSY OBSERVED IN THE RUSSIAN PROVINCES BORDERING ON THE BALTIC.

Dr. Blossfeld premises his account of leprosy, as observed in the neighborhood of Riga, with some extremely just and pertinent observations on the mode in which cutaneous affections should be studied, in order to avoid the numerous sources of error which have led to so much perplexity and embarrassment in fixing the diagnosis of many forms of skin-disease. In detailing the following cases, which are intended to serve as illustrations of the various forms of leprosy observed by him, he adopts the terms employed by the late Professor Struve, of Dorpat, in his "*Synopsis Morborum Cutaneorum*."

1. *Pes Elephantiacus* (Leprosy localis pedum of Struve). In June, 1827, Dr. Blossfeld saw, in the hospital at Mittau, a potter's wife, aged 40, whose right lower extremity, as far as the middle of the thigh, was affected with a disease resembling elephantiasis. The diseased foot was more than double the size of the other; the toe-nails resembled claws, and grew into the flesh; the skin of the extremity was somewhat like tortoise-shell, and formed a hard, fissured, warty mass, of a dark blue color, and exhibiting scattered points of suppuration.

The patient was the only person of her family, or of the village, that labored under the disease.

2. *Lepra localis pedum*. A Russian sailor, born in the government of Wilna, and residing in Riga for the last fifteen years, consulted Dr. Blossfeld in January, 1836, for an affection of one of the lower extremities. The whole leg was thickened and hard, possessed little sensibility, and was white and shining. On the dorsum of the foot, above the heel, and about a hand's breadth above the ankle, three patches of moss-like excrescence, about an inch in breadth, surrounded the foot. The rest of the leg, anteriorly as far the knee, and posteriorly to a hand's breadth above the ham, was also hard and of a dirty brown color, bounded above by a patch of psoriasis, raised on a darker base. Over the anterior part of the tibia there was an ulcer about a hand's breadth in diameter, painless, and covered with red, hard, warty granulations. The patient was of a gross lymphatic habit, his belly was very tense and hard, and he complained of tightness about the chest, and sense of pressure in the stomach after taking food.

The Pes Elephantiacus, with mosslike excrescences, is most frequently observed at Riga; but Dr. Blossfeld has also seen the mossy incrustation on other parts,—as, for instance, the forehead.

3. *Lepra Ulcerosa*. R. G., aged 34, a merchant, born and residing at Riga, enjoyed good health up to his twentieth year, when he contracted primary symptoms of syphilis, which yielded to appropriate treatment, without any further consequences. Seven years afterwards, being at that time three years married, he was attacked with his present complaint, and was treated with mercury and various other remedies for many years, without any relief. When seen by Dr. Blossfeld, he had lost his eyelashes and eyebrows, and a portion of the hair of his head; what remained was dry and brittle. The cornea of both eyes was of the color of mother of pearl, and covered with scurf, and the patient had been blind for two years. The nails were thickened, and partly bent backwards, partly inwards, like claws. The forehead, cheeks, chin, shoulders, and other parts of the body, were covered, partly with cicatrices of delicate white shining skin, and partly with detached or aggregated irregular spots and patches, (*Morphææ*), from one to three inches in circumference, without any elevation, and of a bright copper color. These spots were partly covered with yellowish

or brownish crusts and scales, attached in the centre, but loose at the edges; the remaining portion of their surface was marked with bleeding fissures, or they were ulcerated, raw, and covered with a serous exudation. On the hands and feet, the spots and ulcerated patches were of an irregular undulating form, (*Ophiasis*), from two to four lines in breadth, from a quarter to half a line in depth, and from three to five inches in length. The neighboring uninjured portions of the skin appeared rough, dry, and without much sensibility. The patient died of marasmus six weeks after he came under the care of Dr. Blossfeld. For some time before his death, he had fever, evidently of a hectic character, but unaccompanied by night sweats. The commencement of the disease was attended with remarkable salacity; during its progress, the patient complained frequently of indigestion and vomiting, with considerable languor and distress of respiration. His wife did not take the disease.

Dr. Blossfeld observes, that he would be inclined to range the foregoing case under *Lepra albaras ulcerosa* of Struve, had not the tubercles been entirely absent. It appears to correspond with the description of *Lepra ulcerosa* of the Greeks given by Dr. Rothamel, or to the *Lepra Arabum anaisthetos* of Fuchs. The following case corresponds more closely with the species described by Struve.

4. *Lepra albaras ulcerosa*. A stone-mason, aged 35, who had labored for five months under fever of the quartan type, was attacked, on the cessation of the febrile symptoms, with a peculiar eruption on various parts of his body. His forehead, cheeks, and chin were covered with warty, flattened, circular tubercles, closely aggregated, and elevated on coffee-colored spots. Most of these had passed into the suppurative stage; and at various points the pus had dried up, and was covered with transparent yellowish crusts. Similar tubercles were found isolated on the scalp, which retained but little hair; and there were others of the same description on the legs, but without suppuration or crusts. The nostrils were swollen, brown, and uneven, and the anus surrounded by large, soft condylomata. The patient's voice was clear and natural. There was no reason to suspect that he had ever contracted syphilis; his wife was perfectly free from disease, and mercurials had proved of no benefit to him. He was of a phlegmatic and bilious temperament, slow, indolent, voracious and lascivious; his pulse was

soft and full, scarcely fifty in a minute. He was treated with bleeding and sulphureous waters, with much benefit; the tubercles disappeared, leaving behind only the coffee-colored spots which had formed their basis. He subsequently got an attack of apoplexy, followed by epileptic convulsions and paralysis of the right side, but recovered under appropriate treatment, and is now quite free from disease.

5, 6. *Lepra Elephantiasis leonina incipiens*. Two young persons, a brother aged 16, and a sister 14, children of a potter, came under the care of Dr. Blossfeld, in September, 1826. They had been several years previously, treated with mercurials, low diet, and various other remedies, without any benefit. The face was red and swelled; and the cheeks, forehead, and angles of the mouth covered with close-set, copper-colored tubercles, about the size of a split hazle-nut. The nose was thickened, red, and uneven; its point sunk in and flattened. The cavity of the mouth, the throat, gums, and root of the tongue, were covered with ulcers and tubercles, about the size of a millet-seed or lentil. The voice was hoarse and rough, the respiration sibilous and labored, the muscles stiff, the skin apparently insensible, the nails thickened and scabby. Neither of them had ever contracted syphilis; and the other members of the family, as well as the rest of the inhabitants of the village, had no traces of the disease.

The foregoing cases bear considerable resemblance to *Radesyge*, as described by Holst, Hunefeld, and Gedike. The following is much more like *Lepra leonina*, and was recognized as such by Dr. Welz, who had seen the disease in the East.

7. The son of a Russian soldier, aged fourteen, was admitted into the military hospital at Riga, in June, 1835, having been five years ill. His forehead, cheeks, and the parts around the mouth, were beset with tubercles of a dirty copper-color. These were about the size of a split hazle-nut, more or less flattened, and closely aggregated; and, with a broad flat nose, sunk at the point, gave the patient the appearance of a mastiff. The hair and nails were sound, the voice slightly affected from the obstruction of the nostrils. His digestion was normal. In December he was attacked with typhus; during which the tubercles inflamed, scabbed, and fell off the face, leaving behind elevated patches of a dirty copper-color and husky appearance. A few rather isolated tubercles remained on the extremities. The rest of the skin was cold,

moist, and clay-colored. The patient's mother was said to have labored under the same disease; his father and sister were healthy. He died of marasmus in 1836.

Lepra Crustosa (*Psoriasis universalis alba* of Struve). Herr von H., aged 34, and residing in Curland, placed himself under Dr. Blossfeld's care in the summer of 1825. He had labored for many years under a cutaneous affection, for which he had tried a great variety of remedies without success, and was now greatly debilitated; suffered from hypochondriasis, persistent cardialgia, constipation; and was also very salacious. With the exception of his face, palms of his hands, and soles of his feet, the whole surface of his body was covered with rough, fissured, grey crusts, so as to give him the appearance of being covered with a coat of mail. On the extremities, the crusts remained unchanged; but from time to time they dropped off the trunk, leaving the bare portion of the skin moist and red; this became gradually covered with crusts, at first thin, afterwards thicker and harder. He had no pain or itching; his wife and daughter were healthy. About a year after, he died with symptoms of marasmus.

9. *Radesyge*. Louisa G., aged 27, had enjoyed good health up to her fourteenth year, when she became subject to frequent attacks of transient pain in the thigh and irregularity of the catamenia, which appeared only once in six or eight weeks. Seven years since, she had been repeatedly exposed to cold; and, three years afterwards, she was seized with violent rending pain of the right side of the head, right ear, and right eye, companied by deafness and amaurosis. She had also repeatedly suffered from erysipelatous affections of the leg and face; and was attacked, in April, with fever of a tertian type, attended with great hoarseness. When seen by Dr. Blossfeld, in August, her face was swelled, red, and shining; her nose sunk in and thickened; she was deaf on the right ear, and the right eye was amaurotic, and constantly bedewed with tears. The throat and pharynx were dry and covered with red spots and ulcerated patches, the uvula was gone, the nasal bones carious, the voice hoarse and whispering, the breathing sibilous, and attended with croupy cough and paroxysms of suffocation. The pain in the head was violent, the muscles of the right side sluggish in their action, the urine turbid and exhibiting a white deposit; slow fever. Her hair and nails were sound. Although the patient never had syphilis, she had

been treated for it by several physicians, but without success. The same result attended every other plan of treatment, and she left Riga in 1834.

10. *Ichthyosis Cornea*. Countess L., a Polish lady, aged 16, a blonde, pale sallow complexion and costive habit, but otherwise healthy, attacked with the above-mentioned affection in her third month. Her whole body, with the exception of the face, axilla, palms of the hands and soles of the feet, is covered with a yellowish, rough, and wrinkled cuticle, like that of a hen's foot, particularly about the elbow and knee joints. The reticulated cuticle is beset with thin jointed scales, which fall off in great quantities in bed, and drop on the ground as she walks. This affection diminishes in summer and increases in winter, without ever disappearing altogether. Her younger brother labors under the same disease; the rest of the family are healthy.

Dr. Blossfeld states, in conclusion, that he has frequent opportunities of observing syphilitic eruptions which bear a considerable analogy to lepra, but has omitted to give any account of them for obvious reasons.

ARSENIC.

Poisoning by Arsenic — Treatment by Hydrated Sesquioxide of Iron. — Dr. Jas. Walsh records several remarkable cases of poisoning by arsenic, which tend to indicate some value in the treatment by hydrated sesquioxide of iron.

CASE I. — A stout man, aged twenty-three, purchased two hundred and fifty grains of arsenic, ostensibly for poisoning rats. He took the whole, and, rinsing the cup, swallowed the dregs. He had taken breakfast at six A. M., took the arsenic at noon. A girl saw him take the poison, and alarmed his friends, who made him swallow some melted butter and salt. Within an hour after he had taken the poison, he was seen by Drs. Walsh and Betts and Mr. Evans. A drachm of sulphate of zinc was given, which produced free vomiting; the vomited matter was found subsequently to contain arsenic. Carbonate of iron was given, in molasses, in ounce doses, and being allowed three minutes to act on the arsenic, was then evacuated by half a drachm of sulphate of zinc administered in a pint of warm water. This was repeated six times, before the arrival of some hydrated sesquioxide.

A burning pain in the stomach, of which the patient complained, and the restless nervous-

ness and pinched face that accompanied the pain, disappeared on his swallowing the first dose (eight fluid ounces) of the hydrated sesquioxide. This was followed by the zinc, as above-mentioned, and repeated in doses of four ounces every five minutes, until there were good grounds for believing that the arsenic was nearly all neutralized and removed. To prevent the evil effects of any portion of the poison that might have passed the pylorus, Dr. Walsh gave four ounces more of sesquioxide, followed by an ounce and a half of castor oil. The oil not only acted freely on the bowels, but carried the iron before it through the whole intestinal canal. The man was about his business next morning, and had no further bad symptoms. The quantity of the hydrate used was two pounds, of the carbonate seven ounces, and of sulphate of zinc two ounces.

CASE II. — A delicate man, aged twenty-five, a tailor, took six hundred grains of arsenious acid. He mistook the arsenic for cream of tartar, and had no idea of suicide. He breakfasted at eight A. M., took the arsenic two hours after, dined at noon, and having learned the dangerous mistake he had made, called on Dr. Walsh at a quarter past twelve. Carbonate of iron was first given, followed by sulphate of zinc; and afterwards the hydrated sesquioxide of iron, with zinc and oil, were given in precisely the same manner as in the preceding case. Not a bad symptom was left, and the man was at his work next day. The remaining contents of the paper, and some of the vomited matter, both gave satisfactory proof of arsenic.

CASE III. — A woman took half an ounce of arsenic in Jersey City, to kill herself, and crossed the ferry to New York. The police were informed of her attempt, and brought her to Dr. Scoville, of the police-force. The treatment was the same as that pursued in the previous two cases, and with the same success. Neither stupor nor convulsions followed in any of these cases, though these symptoms are maintained by some writers to be present in all cases where large quantities of the poison are taken.

CASE IV. — A. M., aged fourteen, swallowed half an ounce of Fowler's solution. Dr. Walsh was called in half an hour after the accident. An ounce of tincture of iron, and one ounce of liquor potasse, mixed, was given in doses of a tablespoonful, followed by sulphate of zinc every five minutes, for six repetitions of the dose. The pain ceased. Another dose of iron, followed by an ounce of castor oil, ope-

rated freely, and left the patient quite well.

CASE V. — A. B., aged six years, took two teaspoonfuls of Fowler's solution, and soon suffered from pain in the stomach and vomiting. Two ounces of tincture of iron and half an ounce of carbonate of soda were administered in teaspoonful doses every five minutes, followed by ten-grain doses of sulphate of zinc, in warm water, until one ounce of the iron mixture had been taken. Two teaspoonfuls of iron mixture and half an ounce of castor oil finished the course. The patient was well next day.

Dr. Pool relates a case of poisoning by arsenic occurring in eight persons (three men, four women, and a child a year and a half old), treated successfully by the early administration of hydrated magnesia. All the patients had partaken at dinner of a sauce with which a spoonful of arsenic had been mixed by mistake for flour. Immediately after the meal, most acute symptoms of poisoning were manifested, first in the child, and then in the others. Dr. Pool endeavored, by the copious administration of warm milk and water, to encourage vomiting, which had already occurred in several of the patients, and had been provoked in the rest by inserting the finger into the throat. As an antidote, a warm mixture of calcined magnesia with water (one part in fifteen or twenty), was administered in teaspoonfuls every five or ten minutes. Half an hour later, the burning sensation in the oesophagus and stomach, and the severe colicky pains and the vomiting, had gradually ceased, and had given place to copious stools, which, in some, were bloody. The general symptoms, too, produced by the absorption of the poison into the blood, gradually disappeared, so that, by eleven P. M., those even in whom the most severe symptoms had been manifested were out of danger, and most of the patients lay in a quiet sleep. In all, strong reaction set in, manifested by violent action of the heart and pulse, headache, and burning thirst; but there were no further traces of pain in the intestines or in the limbs. Copious drinking, and the use of the magnesia, were continued. On the following morning no symptoms remained beyond some headache, lassitude, and pain in the limbs; and nearly all returned to their ordinary occupations.

Dr. Pool gives the reasons which lead him to ascribe the results observed to the chemical action of the hydrated magnesia, and not to the mere evacuation of the contents of the stomach, nor to the magnesia acting as a cov-

ering to the intestines. From a consideration of the mode of action of the hydrated magnesia in poisoning by arsenic, he concludes: — 1. That this substance, even in a very advanced stage of poisoning (but always before the accession of inflammation or its results), is a sure antidote, having the power of neutralizing and eliminating the arsenic, both where it meets with it in the alimentary canal, and in the more distant parts of the body. 2. That it may be given warm in large quantity and at short intervals, whereby two important indications are at once fulfilled, — those of arresting vomiting and promoting alvine evacuations. Dr. Pool considers the hydrated magnesia preferable to the hydrated oxide of iron. M. Van Hulsteyn made a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the remainder of the sauce. The quantity experimented on was four ounces (the poisoned persons had used about three-fourths of the sauce). In the four ounces about a drachm of pure arsenious acid was found. — *B. and F. Med. and Ch. Review.*

AFRICAN DOCTORS.

They depend on amulets or greegrees for protection and defence. These are purchased from the greengree doctors for different sums of money according to the purposes for which they are designed. These amulets are sheep horns, or small pockets, filled with herbs and palm oil and dirt made by the doctor or conjurer. These doctors are a distinct class of men who come into the profession hereditarily, the heads of the families teaching their craft. The children destined to this profession enter early upon these studies under some doctor — sometimes as early as seven or eight years, and are distinguished by a peculiar straw dress.

These doctors profess a knowledge of herbs and roots, and to have the means of curing diseases, and are called to relieve the sick and afflicted. But their greatest reputation is derived from their imagined supernatural knowledge.

The Kroo people consider death and sickness as caused by witchcraft, and they employ and rely upon the doctors to point out the person who has by witchcraft caused these evils. The person who is designated as guilty of the crime of witchcraft, is arrested by the soldier king, and condemned to the ordeal of sassy-wood. The bark of the sassy-wood is powerfully narcotic, and a strong decoction of this the person condemned is forced to drink; and after he has drank it, he walks to and fro, ex-

claiming, "Am I a witch, " am I a witch ? " while one of his executioners walks behind him, replying, " You are a witch, you are a witch ; " and this continues until he either throws off from his stomach the poison, when he is pronounced innocent, or it operates as a cathartic, when he is declared guilty, and compelled to take more of the decoction, and is subjected to other cruelties, which cause his speedy death. When pronounced innocent, there is great joy and triumph among the friends of the accused, who march through the town dancing, singing, and firing guns, and the conjuror resigns his fee to those who employed him. These shocking scenes of the ordeal by sassy-wood were of almost daily occurrence in former times, but have been much less frequent, say three or four times a year, since the establishment of a mission among them. Sometimes this sassy-wood is used to decide questions between individuals, and they voluntarily drink it to prove and settle some disputed points. This ordeal by sassy-wood is one of the most prevalent and cruel of African superstitions, and is practised among nearly, if not all, the tribes of Africa. We presume that thousands of the Africans perish by this sassy-wood superstition annually.

Hanover, N. H., Med. School. — A correspondent of the Recorder writes thus, in reference to this institution :

The Examination of the Medical Class, was spoken of by the Committee, invited from abroad for that purpose, in high terms of commendation. Dr. Wm. H. H. Mason, of Moultonboro', delivered the Annual Address to a crowded and gratified audience. On these occasions, degrees are conferred on those who have completed their course, in manner and form similar to Commencement Day. This School, founded by the exertions of Dr. Nathan Smith, retains its character and prosperity. Many patients from the region round resort here, during the Session, for surgical help ; the operations being gratuitous, for the benefit of the class. In this way the Institution is a public benefit, especially to those of limited means ; and the Professors of the Institution have thus an opportunity to extend their usefulness and reputation.

About three weeks since, Dr. Peaselee performed the very difficult operation of extracting an ovarian tumor, for a lady who came from another part of the State. The incision was eight inches in length, exposing, of course, all the abdominal viscera ; the operation lasted

more than two hours ; and the sack, with its contents after removal, weighed twenty-four pounds. The lady is now nearly recovered and hopes to leave for home in a very few days. This is the fourth successful operation of the kind which Professor Peaselee has performed in the last four years. In only one has he been unsuccessful, and that through an accident some days after the operation.

The Chandler Scientific School is accomplishing its ends. It is, to all intents, a part of the College, being wholly under the instruction of the College Professors, and the students subject to the same regimen. The apparatus and library, and other facilities, are ample, and every way the School presents great attractions for such as desire a shorter and more specific course. A specific degree, with diploma, is conferred publicly, Commencement Day, on those who complete the course.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[Communicated to the Medical World.]

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

This Society met at their rooms, in Temple place, on Saturday evening, November 29th, 1856. The President, *Dr. Walter Channing*, in the chair — present, *thirteen* members, including the President and Secretary.

The President spoke of a case of *placenta prævia*, to which he was lately called. There was much hæmorrhage. The patient did well.

Dr. Bowditch related a case of *typhoid fever*, which he had recently attended at the Hospital. The patient was comatose — pulse quick, fever high, and he supposed it would terminate fatally. He gave quinine and stimulants, and, with such good effect, that in twenty-four hours there was great amendment, and he now bids fair to recover.

Dr. Cornell asked if Dr. Bowditch was satisfied he had *diagnosed* the case correctly, and that it *was* typhoid fever ? Dr. B. said it was not a very clear case, but he judged it to be typhoid fever. Dr. C. asked if there were any *rose-colored spots* upon the abdomen, or trunk ?

Dr. B. said, *none*. Dr. C. doubted if it were really typhoid fever, as he considered the appearance of such spots one of the surest signs of this fever.

Dr. Channing said he had found the follow-

ing an excellent stimulant in cases of debility :

Pr. Carb. Ammonia,	grs. iii.
Aqua Camph.	3ss.
Aqua pura,	℥i.
M. S. quator diem.	

Dr. Ayer presented a *fœtus* of some six months' growth, perfect in all parts, except having *no top to the head above the eyes*. When he was called, the *fœtus* was born, alive, the *eyes wide open and staring*, and the spectators much *frightened*. *Dr. Ayer* asked the President how far advanced he had ever seen a *fœtus* of this kind. He answered, *at the full time*.

Twenty-five deaths having occurred the last week, in the city, from *scarlet fever*, (according to the report of the City Registrar,) the President inquired if any of the members of the Society had seen this disease in its present malignant, or fatal form. It did not appear that any present had seen, recently, any cases of this disease; some, however, spoke of cases which they had attended several months or years ago.

Nine o'clock having arrived, and the *thirteen* not being very spirited in discussing *medical* points, *Dr. Bowditch* moved to "suspend the rules," to take up a subject which doctors generally are not averse to, namely — *a social repast*, at each meeting. He thought doctors needed to cultivate *these* feelings. There is no doubt that such is the case. Where one half the doctors wish to devour the other half, such a motion *ought* to prevail, *and it did*. Something to eat and drink will bring together more than *thirteen* out of three hundred, more or less.

MEDICUS.

[Communicated for the Medical World.]

MEDICAL DIFFICULTIES.

BY WM. A. ALCOTT, M. D.

Medical men, like men of other professions, have their difficulties. They have not always smooth sailing, unembarrassed by winds, breakers or tides, which are unfavorable.

Here is a tobacco-chewing or smoking patient. Perhaps he has used his tobacco forty years, till he is fairly mithsidated* by it. Had

* For the benefit of the non-professional and non-classical reader, it may be needful to observe that Mithsidates, king of Pontus, is said to have taken poison from day to day, in small, but constantly increasing quantities, till he became so hardened against its influence as to be proof against that death from hemlock, which was then so customary in high life. We are not told, however, what were the remote effects on his system, or on those who came after him.

you called on him a few days before he called on *you*, and after kindly inquiring about his health, had you suggested, with ever so much modesty and moderation, the necessity of a change in his habits, he would doubtless have told you sarcastically, "Oh, I have used the 'poisonous creature' half a life-time, and am not injured by it yet." And had you labored with him two hours, or even a whole day, to convince him of his error, your labor might have been wholly in vain. But now he is sick; not merely a little sick, but severely so. His nervous system is prostrated, as well as his muscular powers. Does he know how much greater the prostration is for having benumbed his nervous system with a filthy narcotic, every day, for one hundred and fifty thousand successive days? There is great irritation and tenderness about the region of the liver; with seasons of nausea, and perhaps vomiting; does he know how much more severe his bilious affection is, in consequence of having narcotized his system daily for almost half a century? Constipation, alternated, perhaps, with occasional diarrhoea, is another troublesome symptom; does he know how much of this is owing to his long use of tobacco? In short, he has been using medicine daily,—for if tobacco is not a medicine, pray what is?—for forty years or more; and now does he expect other medicine, such as his physician may think it needful to prescribe, will have its wonted effect? Is there no danger of having his disease aggravated, rather than relieved, by the administration of new medicine? Does he not know, that no physician in the world, however skilful he may be, can so apportion his doses to the case of an individual who has, for many long years, been dosing or drugging himself, till he has either become mithsidated, or has passed beyond the mount of mithsidation to the gulf of cachexy or general prostration and helplessness, which lies beyond it? And does he not know,—for if not, his physician, if he is a man who is worthy of the name, knows it quite too well,—that all active medicine is like a sword with two edges, which cannot be used in the vital domain without doing execution in some way? for if it does not cut in one direction, it does in another.

Here is a patient who has used alcohol all his life-time. Perhaps, indeed, that life is as yet but a short one. He is hardly thirty-five years of age; yet his constitution is as much impaired as that of many people at sixty. True, he was never intoxicated, —he would have shuddered, always, at the thought of a

lurking suspicion of this sort in any human mind. But he has drank his dram at five o'clock, ere rising; at eleven o'clock, as a preparation for dinner; and at four o'clock in the afternoon, as steadily and as certainly as these seasons have recurred, till his system is poisoned through every pore and fibre. And yet, till lately, he has scarcely felt a pain. Now, a host of exciting causes, as so many igniting sparks, have kindled into a flame all the latent predispositions to disease, which a long, but persevering course of transgression had induced. He realizes, just now,—*did he but realize it*,—the full import of the saying of Solomon:—"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set on them to do evil."

But what can be done with him? As surely as alcohol has circulated through every pore of his system for twenty or thirty years, just so surely has he been poisoned, as I said before, at every pore. The mucous membranes, in particular, are poisoned. For proof of this, you have but to lay open his alimentary canal, or his bronchial tubes, and what do you see but hollow passages as red as fire—indeed, *on fire*—that is, in a state of sub-inflammation? Now in these circumstances what can medicine do? or if *any thing* in *any shape*, what shall it be, and in what *shape*? No living medical man, be he wise as the wisest of the present or the past, can tell. He can guess, and perhaps a little better than those who have neither studied the human constitution nor the nature or power of medicine. But he must *guess*, still; it is *only* guessing in such circumstances. Is there no difficulty in the practice of medicine?

Here is a female patient. She has lived twenty years, it may be more, for I have seen women,—married women at least,—who were over twenty. But young as she is, she is full of disease, and would gladly be freed from at least a part of it. What is to be done? We must look well to the causes of her suffering. She has neither drunk spirits, nor used tobacco. I recall; she has done both. She has drunk *spirits*, alcohol, whenever she has drunk cider, beer, a'e, or wine. All *fermented* drinks contain more or less of alcohol; and though she would not for the world have drank *distilled* spirits, she has not hesitated, occasionally, to drink *fermented* drinks,—*wine*, with considerable freedom. I have even heard her speak, with much emphasis, of the future triumphs of temperance, from the increased and very general cultivation of the grape, and the conse-

quent manufacture of large quantities of wine in this country, as in France. But she has also drunk tea and coffee *ad libitum*; and her nervous system is in a most terrible condition. How, in such circumstances, is her family physician to apportion his dose, whether allopathic, or homœopathic,—whether botanic or mineral,—to her case? Is he not quite as likely to madden, still more, her already half-frenzied brain as to allay irritation by his medicines?

Or, finally, what is still more frequent among us, here is a child, "dreadfully sick," with bowel complaint. As yet he has never drunk alcohol, whether in one form or another; or smoked or chewed tobacco. Nor has he become, at such a tender age, an inveterate tea or coffee drinker. It is true he has been fed a year or two of the most important, because most formative stage of his existence, on the poisoned streams of the body of another individual; and it is equally true that he has been compelled to breathe, for many a juvenile hour, an atmosphere poisoned with the smoke of another's pipe or cigar. But this, though bad enough for incipient human life, is not quite so bad for him as another, and in its results, more deadly form of treatment still, at the hands of those who should have been his preservers and benefactors. Lay open his intestinal canal, and you will find it, from beginning to end, having, as the vulgar phrase it, an angry appearance, and, perhaps, in some places, thickly studded with ulcers. Is this diseased membrane a suitable place for the exhibition of active medicine? Will any scientific medical man be so daring and reckless, in view of such considerations as are likely to present themselves to his mind, in these days, when called to a sick child, as to venture on what is usually called an active or bold treatment? Yet he is expected to do something—something, too, which will inspire confidence. The parents, who have given their dearest child saleratus, pepper, spice, salt, lard, butter, and all sorts of concentrations, and the grandparents, who have, either by stealth or otherwise, give him extra rations, at all hours, especially those which were unreasonable, of pie, cake, sweatmeats and confectionery, will be the last to be satisfied with an expectant treatment. The physician knows all this; yet he knows that the more imminent the danger, the greater the necessity of leaving Nature so undisturbed and unembarrassed, that she may exert the full force of her recuperative power, without which recovery will be impossible. So great

will be his difficulty that it should excite no surprise to hear him say, in the deep anguish of his soul, that if it must be so, — if people will live in this intemperate way, and thus irritate and poison their solids and fluids, it were far better to trust the issue to Nature and good nursing, than to attempt any thing by means of medicine. Indeed it may be laid down, as an incontrovertible axiom, that all forms of medication, in such cases, are much worse than nothing; and were society but aware of the facts in the case, they would either abandon their habits or abandon physicians and medicine. Both cannot, with safety, be retained.

In the few remarks here made, I have alluded to a few only of the almost innumerable difficulties which beset the medical man, and sometimes seem actually to hedge up his way. In a future article I may advert briefly to the course which a truly honorable practitioner, in the world's best days, may be expected to pursue.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

A PHYSICIAN'S VACATION.—Every medical gentleman, who has been a member of the Medical School in Boston, within the last thirty years, doubtless remembers very distinctly one of the former professors, Walter Channing, M. D., also favorably known by his professional writings.

In the spring of 1852, he formed a sudden resolution to have a vacation. He gave the best possible evidence of his attainments in wisdom by concluding there were other purposes in life besides perpetually drudging in the fatiguing routine of a physician's ordinary labors.

In order to get quite beyond the reach of those who might interfere with the scheme to have a time all to himself, the doctor crossed the Atlantic; this, however, was a second voyage to Europe,—but the first was in his youth, nearly fifty years before. But he writes with such warmth and heartiness, and enjoyed every thing with a gusto, in nature, art, science and society, that had he kept the secret to himself, that he is verging upon threescore and ten, it never would have been suspected. The fascinated stranger, would probably have laid down the agreeable volume, to which these observations refer, occasionally, on finishing a pleasant paragraph, and have said to himself, "The author is a sensible young man."

Dr. Channing went rapidly over the most interesting parts of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, Russia,—and peeped into

small principalities and dukedoms without number, and completed his tour in Spain. Of course he was whirled from one government to another, as rapidly as steam could safely do it; and, as he went, he wrote down enough of historical memoranda, in connection with his impressions, interwoven with facts of every day occurrences, illustrative of the appearance and real condition of men and women on the way, to make an exceedingly interesting book of travels. Dr. Channing saw all the great hospitals and men of mark wherever he went; and what he says of them cannot fail to amuse and instruct the medical fraternity. The fact is, physicians, like other human beings, must laugh and cry and eat and sleep like other people. It is an art worth acquiring; and it may be learned to some extent, in this work, how to get out of the traces and be happy.

What is life worth to its possessor, forever engaged in the responsibilities of prescribing for the sick? Where is the harm to one's family or dependents, in having an occasional relaxation from the sober demands of practice?

Dr. Channing will have a longer lease of life, for changing the scene, resting one section of his brain, and giving employment to other parts of the encephalon.

Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, Boston, are the publishers of "*A Physician's Vacation; or a Summer in Europe: by Walter Channing.*" It is a closely printed, large-sized duodecimo, of five hundred and sixty-four pages; not too large to be sent by mail anywhere. It will be read here and there and everywhere. But his professional brethren are the readers to appreciate the doctor in full, and that is not all,—it shows how they should make a book of travels when they make a similar trip. When physicians go abroad, they make a mistake in supposing their mission is solely to run through the wards of hospitals, and gather up statistics of the number of limbs amputated in a year.

They should give diaries, and chronicle things as they pass before their eyes. Who wants to know the quantity of meal made into poultices at the Hotel Dieu, in thirteen weeks? We venture to give an answer: Nobody. But when a narrative is presented,—a sort of moving panoramic canvas, the descriptions become vivid pictures, and the spectator is entertained at a banquet which creates a healthful relish for more. While luxuriating over Dr. Channing's fruits of travel, and revisiting through him many a far-off city and stately architectural ruin, which we have examined in by-gone times, with a degree of enthusiasm which ani-

mated the doctor, it occurred to us that he has an unoccupied field at his disposal—an autobiography. He has been an official man, a public teacher in the oldest university, an eminent practitioner, and everybody's friend and associate, long enough to give us a book of books. He could tell about all the distinguished persons, male and female, for half a century; how they looked, the color of their eyes, the cut of their clothes, and how they became famous.

But it is necessary to bring this article to a close, without extracts; they will frequently appear hereafter, and the patrons of The Medical World will know from whence they were derived. A Physician's Vacation is amusing, instructive, and pleasant company: order it, and you will be of the same opinion.

FLOATING FACTS.

A Fashionable Physician—A correspondent of the New York Times writes thus:—

The doctor *a la mode* at this moment in Paris is M. Rayer, principal physician to his Majesty. No man in high life, belonging to the "color" of the present *regime*, can die decently without having first paid at least one consultation fee to Dr. Rayer. He is to high life in Paris what Sir Harry Halford lately was in London, and what Dr. Bailie was before him. And what is better, Dr. Rayer has the most ingenious methods imaginable to extract large fees from the pockets of his clients.

Lately the Doctor had a bed made for himself in the parlor of the house of one of our Rothschilds in finance, who was suffering under an indisposition of some gravity. The Doctor said to the valet in the evening: "My patient does not seem very well this evening; he has a bilious look; his eye is sunken; you must make me up a bed in the saloon." You may judge the surprise of the Rotchschild in the morning on waking up. "How, Doctor, you here! You give me even your nights! How richly ought I to acknowledge such devotion!" The Doctor modestly inclines himself, and thus it is that he has earned the title of the *Esculape de la prime*.

Spinal Diseases caused by Riding.—It is stated on the authority of an English physician who has visited that part of Asia where elephants are used for riding. Nothing can be more uncomfortable in his estimation. The mahouts, or drivers, never reach an advanced age, and often die young from disease of the spine, brought on by the incessant motion of the vertebral column.

American Prisons.—In no civilized country do prisoners of all denominations fare so well as in the United States. Their cells are constructed for making them entirely comfortable. Associations exist for ameliorating their condition. Many of the worst felons receive more attention from ladies and gentlemen than they give some of their own relations. In England the prisons are so badly managed for the inmates, they rarely get in a second time. At the prison of Brest, in France, which contains about 4000 infamous cut-throat prisoners as ever went unhung, they are chained two together, and at night they sleep chained down to a hard plank jutting out from the wall of the apartment, without bed-clothes; and all conversation is forbidden under the severest penalties. To keep them in the most abject subjection, laden with chains on their hard bed at the close of the harder convict labors of the day, cannons, loaded with grape shot are planted at the extremities of the rooms, that would annihilate every fragment of their bodies, if once fired. It is by no means an uncommon occurrence for vagabonds to commit small crimes on the approach of winter, here at the North, for the sake of being sent to prison where they are fed, clothed and cared for at the public expense, to their perfect satisfaction. It was doubtless in ridicule of this kind of misplaced charity that the society was formed for furnishing over-coats for whales at the North Pole.

Military Punishment.—One of the Crimean invalids in the Chichester Military Hospital, England, was lying at the point of death, and as a last request, begged his comrade to see that a small sum of money, (about 17s,) under his pillow, with a few other things belonging to him, should after his death be sent to his mother. This was promised, and the soldier was called away on duty. Upon his return the poor fellow was dead, and the money gone. One of the medical staff attendants was seen to take something from under his pillow; he was immediately seized and searched, and the money found on him. A court-martial sentenced him to receive fifty lashes, (which were duly inflicted,) and twelve months' imprisonment.

Teething in Old Age.—A negress in Petersburg, Virginia, familiarly known as Aunt Betsey, now 101 years of age, has a new set of teeth just beginning to peep out from her gums.

Wearing Beards in Russia. — When Peter the Great ascended the throne, he directed that noblemen, gentlemen, tradesmen and artificers, should pay one hundred rubles for the privilege of looking like goats; and all the common people were ordered to pay one copeck each, for enjoying the privilege for going unshorn. He abominated the filthy custom of long grizzly beards, and took this measure, it seems, to bring about a system of social cleanliness. Clerks were placed at the gates of the towns to collect the tax. The edict almost shook the empire of Muscovy. People were determined neither to pay the fee nor cut off their begrimed appendages of the chin. Peter, however, was resolute, and never relaxed a single iota. On the whole, his loving subjects thought it was better to lose their beards than their heads, his terrible majesty being determined to have one or the other, — and thus shaving was introduced into Russia.

Malformed Savage. — Deformities are extremely rare among the Indians of the west or in the islands of the Pacific. Capt. Wilkes, however, mentions that on the Island of Wytoohee, in the Paumotu group, he saw a native priest who had a remarkable head. The forehead ran very high, and narrow, almost to deformity. He had dark and suspicious bright eyes. But the man was a rare curiosity from the circumstance that his hands were without joints. Korokoa, the chief, was his brother, sixty years of age, whose teeth were all sound and good.

Poisoning by Adulteration. — In the Association Medical Journal, England, Dr. Normandy relates the following: — A gentleman fell sick immediately after eating some double Gloucester cheese. His physician determined to ascertain the cause. On examination, the cheese was colored with anotta; that had been heightened in color by having vermilion added to it by a second dealer; but the vermilion had been adulterated by the person who dealt in the article, by adding red lead. In short, the lead was the poison. Thus each shopkeeper cheated a little, and the result came near having a fatal termination.

Protracted Sickness. — In 1772, Mrs. Wyndymore died in Emanuel Hospital, near Tothill Fields, at the advanced age of 108 years, — having been upwards of fifty years a patient of the institution. She was a second cousin to Queen Ann.

Ambrose Pare. — France has never in any age produced a greater surgeon, — no, not in modern times. He was born at Laval, department of the Maine, in 1509. Such was the extent of his reputation for skill — and it was all based on a ready mechanical tact, it would seem — that he was appointed surgeon in ordinary to Henry II, 1552; and retained it, with increasing distinction, under three succeeding kings, viz: Francis II, Charles IX, and Henry III. Although a Calvinist, the king is believed to have spared his life in the horrible massacre of St Bartholomew, not knowing but he might at some future time require his chirurgical services.

Delicate Cords. — Platinum was drawn so finely for Dr. Walliston that 30,000 pieces, placed side by side in contact, would not cover more than an inch. One hundred and fifty of them would not make a thread as thick as a filament of raw silk. Enough of it to reach a mile would weigh but a single grain. Of the same size, were it possible to lay a wire of it from London to Boston, it would weigh only seven ounces. Now contrast this work of art with the attenuated cord spun by the spider — four miles of which weighing no more than one grain, and yet it would sustain the weight of the insect from whose body it is ejected. Like the cables of a wire bridge, each apparently single cord is composed of as many as 6000 filaments.

Ohio Wine. — From one of the Cincinnati papers, of 1855, this paragraph purports to have been taken: More than two thirds of all the Catawba wine sold in that city is made of water, sulphuric acid, and honey, with a dash of the genuine Catawba to give it a proper flavor. If this statement is true, the failure of the grape crop, the present season, is of no consequence, grapes not being required in the manufacture. It is well enough, however, for physicians to recollect this, in prescribing Catawba wine for the sick.

Is this True? — The way to stand well with medical aspirants, of a small calibre, is to say nothing, do nothing, and be careful to suggest nothing that might be construed into originality of thought, or foreshadow personal ambition. Any deviation from these directions will involve the individual in difficulties, and warrant the conclusion that he is dishonest, no scholar-favors empiricism, and ought not to be countenanced as a practitioner by paying patients.

Mortality from Chloroform. — It appears that the mortality in the London hospitals has increased since the introduction of etherization from 21 to 34 per cent., or to vary the expression, instead of amputation being fatal in a less proportion than one in four of those operated upon, it now proves fatal in one in three. Is not so enormous a sacrifice of life too high a price to be paid for anæsthesia, even granting that this cannot be otherwise obtained with perfect safety? Is life to be held as nothing compared to pain? It would be worth while to ascertain what the results have been in the United States, where chloroform is resorted to very generally — even in some minor operations of surgery — and the dentists have made free use of it in extracting teeth.

Pope's Skull. — In a phrenological British cabinet, the head of the great poet is securely shelved. Some years since, when placing a coffin in the same tomb, report says advantage was taken of the occasion to exchange a skull for the head of the translator of Homer, for which the rogue who did it had fifty pounds.

The skull of Spurzhiem, beautifully prepared, belongs to a collection in Boston. Both his brain and heart are also in glass vessels. The resting-place of the remains is recognized by a beautiful marble copy of Scipio's tomb, in front of the public entrance to Mount Auburn Cemetery, a few miles from the city.

Odors. — They are believed to influence the olfactory nerves in a certain definite degree. It has been curiously ascertained that there is, as it were, an octave in odors, as in music. Almonds, heliotrope, vanilla and orange blossom blend together, each producing different degrees of the same impression. Citron, lemon, orange-peel and verbena, form a higher octave, blending in the same manner. Semi-odors—rose, rose-geranium,—are equivalent to half notes. By uniting these various odors in certain definite proportions, the characteristic smell of almost any flower, with the exception of jasmine, may be produced.

Elevated Sanatory Station. — Dr. Hooker, the Himalayan traveller, visited Dorjiling, a British Health Station, in the course of his extensive explorations, under the charge of Dr. Campbell, which is 7000 feet above the sea, on one of the outer spurs of the Himalaya mountains, — a little removed from the vast plain of Bengal, which extends for some hundreds of miles with only slight variation of level, as far as the mouth of the Ganges.

Gutta Percha Teeth. — Commercial agents who are complaining of the amount of gold lost to commerce in the arts, will be delighted to learn that a dentist in Boston finds a substitute in *gutta percha*. It is a singular material for that purpose. Report, however, makes it out that the imitation of natural teeth and gums is very exact, and, as to utility, the manufacturer claims for them all that is contemplated in artificial teeth of porcelain. Will some practical dentist give his views on this topic? — the public desire information.

In Years. — Alexander McCracken, a Scotchman, who came to this country with Gen. Burgoyne, died at Colchester, Conn., August 28, 1855, at the age of 104 years. Elijah Denny, who was residing in Pulaski county, Kentucky, — in September, 1855, was 118 years old. He was in several revolutionary battles. He had nine children living — the oldest being 77, and the youngest 51. For the first time in his life, he drank a cup of coffee in 1847.

Sympathy. — No fact is better substantiated than the following, says the Duke de St. Simon in his memoirs: The President de Banquemore and the Governor de Bergues were twin brothers. They were not only alike in their persons, but also in their feelings. At a royal audience, one morning, the President was taken with an intense pain in one of his thighs. Afterwards it was ascertained that his brother, in the army, was wounded at that same instant, severely, by a sword in his thigh — in a corresponding place.

Prolific. — The author of Notes and Queries states that Mrs. Greenhill had *thirty-nine* children by one husband, all born alive, and were baptized — and further, they were all at single births but one. The last child was born after his father's death, and grew up to be a practising surgeon, King street, Bloomsbury, England. He also became an author of a work on Embalming Human Bodies.

Returned. — Dr. Geo. H. Oliver, of this city, who left Boston for the Crimea two years ago, and served as surgeon under the Russian flag, has returned to Boston, in the bark Henry Hill, from Smyrna, having won much distinction abroad.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

It is admitted by those who know the most about it that glasses, under whatever name, — as *lunetts spectacles, prospect and eye glasses*, — have spoiled about as many eyes as they have aided. When vision begins to be indistinct, avoid their use by all means. By resisting, and making the effort to see, the visual organs will finally re-adjust themselves, and vision will become as perfect and distinct as it was in youth. John Quincy Adams saw clearly without glasses to the day of his death; and the illustrious Humboldt, now eighty-eight years old, was never embarrassed by them. Whoever begins to have artificial assistance for his eyes cannot retrace the step: he must become a slave to his spectacles ever after.

A small volume by Hiram Parker, M. D., *The Harmony of Ages*, has been published by Jewett & Co., Boston. Physicians at the North might contribute several volumes a year to the great accumulating stock of useful and professional knowledge. But they all plead the urgent demands of business as an apology for not doing what men of learning should do, — write what they have heard, seen, and know, for their successors.

That highly instructive work on Climatology of the United States, by Loring Blodget, accompanied by isothermal and rain charts, referred to a few weeks since, will be published as soon as a sufficient number of subscribers are sent to Messrs. T. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, to warrant the undertaking. It will be a credit to this country. Forward your address by the next mail.

The large water cure establishment at Geneva, N. Y., situated on the hill, and formerly known as the Geneva Hotel, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday night. The fire took in the lower part of the house, and those in the rooms above had much difficulty in escaping. One servant girl threw herself from a window in the fourth story, and was instantly killed by the fall. Another girl, named Margaret McAuley, aged 18 or 20 years, jumped from a window in the fourth story, and broke a leg.

Subjects for the dissecting rooms are represented to be scarce in Philadelphia. It is against the future interests of the various schools to have the impression circulated abroad, since that city is regarded as the great medical centre of the Union.

It is the opinion of Prof. Simpson of Edinburgh that there were surgeons in the Roman armies, and each cohort had at least one physician. Monuments are said to have been found, dedicated to physicians in the armies. Still there is a link wanting in the chain to determine the point in regard to surgical operators. Somebody complains of not understanding the force and application of these lines, in connection with the subject: —

“A skillful leech was better far,
Than half a hundred men of war.”

By recollecting that *leech* is an antique appellation, equivalent to *doctor*, divests the couplet of its obscurity.

The New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, edited by Bennett Dowler, M. D., is one of the ablest in this country. Talent, learning, and industry are discoverable on every page of it.

Dr. Merrill's Memphis Medical Recorder states, that as nearly as can be ascertained, the number of Medical Journals now in course of publication in Europe and America are as follows: German, 58; Dutch, 8; Swedish, 18; English, 30; French, 34; Belgian, 13; Italian, 12; Spanish, 9; Canadian, 3; United States, 40, — making in all 225. Add to this catalogue *Anales de la sociedad De Medicina Montevideana*, which we have received.

Medical Society of Montevideo. — *President*, Dr. Don Fermin Ferreiva; *Vice President*, Dr. Don Teodoro M. Vilardebó; *Secretary*, Dr. Don Enrique Munõz; *Pro-Secretario*, Dr. Don Juan Carlos Neves; *Tesovero*, Dr. Don Juan José G. Vizcaino; and *Bibliotecario* Dr. Don Bartolomé Odicini. Dr. Don Juan Victor Martin de Moussy, and Dr. Don Antonio Cándido d'Azambuja, are prominent members. — Dr. Don Bentos de Carvalho d'Souza, and Dr. Don Fedurico A. de Vasconcellos are corresponding members.

Dr. Marshall Hall seems to have actively resumed his medico-literary labors again, in London, without relaxing in the least on account of the sturdy approach of three score and ten. — His long journeys and explorations on this continent unquestionably invigorated him for future industrial pursuits.

Word comes that the Medical School of the University of Michigan is large. It would be singular indeed if it were not, since a brilliant course of lectures by distinguished professors in every department is free. The elements of thrift are there. Fine talents, admirable apparatus, and nothing to pay but a board bill, which is extremely reasonable.

Peoria (Illinois) papers say that the milk sickness is prevailing to an alarming extent in the Mackinaw Bottoms, about ten miles from Pekin. Over 100 head of cattle died in one week from the disease; one farmer lost 40 fine cattle. It is still spreading, and the people dare not touch or taste meat, milk, or butter in the whole region.

Dr. Domingo Giocuria, late commander of General Walker's army in Nicaragua, sent a challenge to fight a duel to Edmund Randolph, one of Walker's political agents. The difficulty between the parties grew out of the recent disclosures made by Giocuria, concerning Walker's affairs.

A Physician's Vacation, by Dr. Walter Channing, of Boston, is a book that every physician would read with pleasure. We shall dissect it soon, and in the meanwhile recommend it to the medical public.

Scarlet fever is now quite prevalent in Boston, and has been unusually fatal. The deaths of twelve children in one day from this disorder were reported at the City Registrar's office. Cases of typhus are also quite common. Still, Boston may be said to be in the enjoyment of excellent health.

Dr. T. D. Hill has procured a mandamus summoning the Erie County Medical Society, Western New York, to appear at Angelica, Dec. 1st, and show cause why he should not be reinstated.

Dr. Séquard's short course of lectures in Boston were highly appreciated by those who were in attendance.

Six fractures and dislocations of limbs had occurred, all within three months, to citizens of South Danvers, viz., one clergyman, one merchant, one under-graduate of Harvard University, with broken legs, one laborer with dislocation at shoulder, one school boy with broken arm.

Charles Stewart obtained a verdict of \$175, in Superior Court, at Cincinnati, Ohio, against a physician of that city, recently, for improper treatment of a fractured arm. The unrighteous New England scheme of raising a revenue out of the surgeon who has bound up the wounds of ungrateful patients, has been inaugurated, it seems, in Ohio.

Dr. David B. Reid, of London, is to give a course of lectures on architecture before the Lowell Institute, in Boston—physicians are qualified to lecture on any subject—and they are decidedly the best lecturers, as a general observative.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 10, 1856.

SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS.—Not long since, a paragraph was running the rounds of the papers, that the believers in spiritual manifestations numbered two millions. In the United States, that an immense excitement has pervaded the whole country, upon this subject of spirit intercourse, and shown itself like an epidemic mania, in Europe, has become a matter of curious history. It will read strangely, in after times, as the narrative of the Salem Witchcraft affects us, in an age that boasts of being untrammelled by superstition, and guided by the light of Science and Christian civilization. Without citing the statistics of the believers, referring to their weekly, monthly and other publications, or attempting to show their numerical strength, we shall confine these observations, specifically to the City of Boston; and if it is the Athens of America, it is also a strong hold of the new school of Spiritualists.

There was a period when the so-called investigations were confined to a small circle of believers, who were not considered competent to analyze phenomena of the Spirit World, on account of their profound ignorance of things nearer home. But that reproach has been wiped away, and a new class of inquirers have taken their places around tipping-tables and dancing-chairs, whose ability for research, and qualifications to estimate facts, cannot be questioned. In a word, some of the gravest and most solemn-faced gentlemen, physicians, clergymen, those of the long robe and buskins, merchants, ingenious men, and ladies beyond count, are more or less, drawn into the charmed circle. It cannot be denied that very singular feats are performed, the most mysterious invariably being in a dark room, under the table, or beyond the immediate ken of the eye. Raps, taps, and astounding noises, that break in occasionally upon the quiet gentleness of a group hand in hand round the focus of invisible operations, keep up an expectant excitement that is never fully gratified.

This mania is not now in the care and keeping of second rate minds. Learned, pious, excellent people, capable of conducting investigations into any department of nature within the scope of human intellect, are deeper in the mire of mis-called science than they suppose, in regard to this Spiritualism furor. They are rather shy in their intercourse, even with each other. Without accomplishing a single useful act, or determining one point that has been turned to good account for the benefit of society,—there is an unaccountable fascination about the weekly systematic inquiries, which no philosophy explains; and that is not all,—perhaps it never will.

Persons of well balanced minds, clear in their judgment in all ordinary business transactions, be

come singularly warped on the subject of modern Spiritualism, and so obstinately determined, that many of them will not bear questioning. *They know,—they have heard with their own ears* (but mind, they rarely see); and it is next to an insult to suggest the possibility of their being deceived. Reports among us in reference to certain individuals, who are giving marked consideration to this intangible something, astonish those who are uninitiated spectators. What are we coming to? Where is to be the end?

One says to another, when an expression of doubt escapes their lips,—“Come and see.” See what? And yet, with all this unsatisfying spiritual food, the believers are certainly on the increase, and if they choose to organize politically, they might compete favorably for themselves with other parties, in town and county, and perhaps, ultimately, for State offices. It is a rapidly growing sect; there is no denying it, or winking it out of sight. Nor is it a slander, in connection with these *prelections*, to assert, that very many physicians, worthy, distinguished men, who would despise trickery, as they are bound to hate empiricism, are said to be welcome visitors in the mystic groups that flourish in this metropolis.

Clearly, Spiritualism is an extensive mental epidemic, which in extreme cases has repeatedly terminated in confirmed madness. Nearly every asylum for the insane, throughout the Union, bears melancholy evidence of the truth of this declaration. These are medical and philosophical deductions, and our honest convictions.

MEDICAL LITERATURE IN PENNSYLVANIA.—By a quiet examination of the medical literary productions of the different States, the labors of medical men in Pennsylvania take a very high place. If all is not gold that shines, very much that has been written within the boundaries of her jurisdiction, from Dr Rush to the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, proves that shining intellects, particularly in Philadelphia, have been recognized by the civilized world; and the rays of light that have emanated from them have penetrated the remotest regions where the science of life is either studied or regarded.

Some men are so constitutionally organized that their happiness in a great degree depends upon their habitual industry. Neither wealth nor position can divert them from the contemplation of the wonders of creative energy, beauty, and adaption of means to ends that are below them. A feat for the mind never leads to satiety, and he who finds pleasure in the commencement of study will be in the midst of a perennial banquet to the end of his days. Of the standard of medical education in Pennsylvania, nothing need be said; since it has all the vantage-ground. The medical department of the University is the ancestral institution of all others throughout the Union, which bids fair to be a legion, with the present rate of multiplication.

The early establishment of a school of medicine

necessarily obliged the public teachers to familiarize themselves with the best authors extant; and having visited the model institutions abroad, they were eminently prepared for professors and authors.

With few exceptions, the prominent medical and surgical writers of Pennsylvania have been celebrated as public lecturers, and nearly all of those valuable works on surgery, theory and practice of medicine, midwifery, materia medica, &c., &c., including physiological productions, lexicons and a variety of miscellaneous treatises which have been received as authorities, emanated from those sources.

In short, the profession of Pennsylvania has something to be proud of in the array of distinguished authors whose names grace and uphold the medical literary character of that ancient Commonwealth.

Where else on the continent can men be cited, who have accomplished so much towards advancing the medical literature of our common country, as Drs. Rush, Wister, Dorsey, Chapman, Wood, Cox, Dunglison, Pancoast, Bell, Mitchell, Deweys, Gerhard, Bell, Smith, Morton, and many others who are extensively known and admired for their writings, to say nothing of the brilliant career of Dr. Shippen, Physic, Jackson, and several more who are entitled to niches in the temple of fame?

This is but a reference to the claims of Pennsylvania upon the whole country for what it has contributed towards elevating and strengthening the medical forces of the United States.

Philadelphia is the point where the power is concentrated. Its great schools, its hospitals, dispensaries, libraries and the facilities that present for pursuing scientific researches in any department of practical medicine, surgery, and chemistry, together with the mental activity of its living authors, demonstrate beyond cavil that Pennsylvania has outrun and still maintains an ascendancy over the whole Union in the amount, value, and influence of her medical literature.

LAYING HANDS ON THE SICK.—A Mrs. York, of Boston, advertises herself to be a healing medium, who cures the “sick by the laying on of hands, and possesses remarkable power in relieving the sick, and every disease which has baffled the medical faculty, has yielded to her treatment. While in the trance state, she describes their diseases upon herself before she examines them. She has done remarkable cures in the street she resides in. She gives unbounded satisfaction to those who follow her directions. Terms of each examination, \$1.00.”

Mrs. York is not the only person devoted to the same system of exploits. Their hands are invariably placed over the purse. There is a mysterious connection between the operator and the patient's wallet. The fools are not all dead—and this opinion is based upon the consideration that hundreds upon hundreds believe in the efficacy of manipulations of this kind. They pay, too, generously, for the privilege of being fooled.

TALL MEN. — A man by the name of Bourbon, a native of Maryland, now in his seventieth year, is residing in Kentucky, — the father of a family unrivaled for their physical development. Og, king of Bashan, and the sons of Anak, were not many feet taller. Maximinus, the Thracian shepherd, who became a Roman emperor, rather overtopped the Bourbons, — being nearly eight feet in altitude, and of incredible strength.

The late celebrated jurist, the Hon. Jeremiah Mason, of Boston, was six feet and four inches in height. Dr. Griffin, formerly a clergyman of Park Street Church, and subsequently president of Williams College in Western Massachusetts, was also six feet and four inches. A farmer, quite a youth, residing in the country not far from this city, who occasionally comes to market, attracts marked attention in passing through the streets, in consequence of standing over seven feet in his shoes. And lastly, one of the prominent practising physicians of Boston is reputed to be six feet and four inches tall!

Kentucky and Tennessee probably furnishes the largest number of men above the average height, of any State or Territory in the Union.

But the Bourbons are extraordinary specimens of modern giants:—

	Height.	Weight.
The Father is	6 feet 4 inches . . .	200 pounds
Mother,	6 " 4 " . . .	285 "
Thomas,	6 " 4 " . . .	230 "
James,	6 " 6 " . . .	215 "
Sarah,	6 " 6 " . . .	165 "
John,	6 " 11 " . . .	296 "
Mary,	6 " 2 " . . .	150 "
Elijah,	6 " 3 " . . .	210 "
Matthew,	6 " 6 " . . .	220 "
Eli,	6 " 6 " . . .	197 "
Daughter,	6 " 3 " . . .	160 "

Total height . . . 70 feet. Weight . . . 2298 pounds.

Entire age 557 years.

The family are all living except the youngest daughter, are all wealthy, and of the first families of Kentucky. Several of the grand children are over six and a half feet, and are still growing.

SCALD HEAD.—Books abound with remedies for this troublesome affection; and while a mode of treatment is represented to have been effectual in one case it utterly fails with another. In the mean while, in cities, inveterate forms of porrigo are always presenting which seem to defy all medication. If latitude or longitude modify the character of the disease, it may be easily explained why a specific in London, is inoperative in California.

Medical gentlemen disposed to furnish accounts of their individual experience in subduing this disease, in different parts of the country, for publication in *The Medical World*, would place sufferers under lasting obligations.

NEW METHOD OF EXTRACTING TEETH.—Some extremely valuable results have been realized in the performance of painful surgical operations, by the application of intense cold to the part. A preference is occasionally given to this, over ether or chloroform, because its administration is attended with none of the dangers that have followed the administration of those potent anæsthetic agents.

A Mr. Rogers, of Boston, whom we have not the pleasure of knowing, is represented to have constructed some apparatus in which the materials for producing the freezing mixture is placed. The patient being seated, a current of cold air from the interior is blown directly on the gums, if a tooth, for example, is to be extracted, which so completely destroys all sense of feeling while the breeze is blowing, that the taking out of a bad tooth from an inflamed socket, is not even recognized as disagreeable. This is an important discovery, and obviates the necessity of covering up with salt and ice, and whatever else enters into the composition of the freezing mass. Boston dentists will unquestionably inaugurate the new plan of drawing teeth. The surgeons must pass their opinion upon the discovery also.

THEORY OF THE NERVES.—Dr. Haskell, of Rockport, Mass., has become earnest in reference to a new theory of the nervous system. He is indefatigably industrious; ingenious in research, and bold in his comments on the old physiologists, who were not only in the dark, if we understand him, but they led others into the same dilemma.

At the last annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Dr. Haskell read a paper abounding in terse observations and profound thoughts on the great subject already referred to, on which he had been long meditating. If he would publish all he wishes the medical public to know of his views, in a distinct volume, a place would be assigned him in the niche appropriated by general consent to the learned men of our country.

TAPE WORM SPECIFIC.—Since the simple specific for mastering this terrible parasite was published in Boston, within the last five years, the most skeptical physicians have been compelled to acknowledge the efficiency and permanency of the remedy. It has been tried in various countries, and invariably succeeds in them all.

Because it is so simple and accessible it may not be amiss to republish it occasionally.

Take an ounce or two of the meats of pumpkin, or squash seeds, and bruise them in a mortar with a small quantity of milk or water, till a creamy orgeat is formed. On an empty stomach, swallow the whole. A draught of cold water is recommended, twenty minutes later, and an hour after, an active cathartic, which expels the tape worm in a torpid condition, bereft of the power of resistance.

MEDICAL ENTERPRISE.—Interference with the business of a neighboring practitioner; defaming him by speaking slightly of his attainments, and endeavoring to demonstrate that he has made gross mistakes with a view of ingratiating ourself with those who roll scandal like a sweet morsel under their tongues, is not medical enterprise. No, it consists in a determined spirit to understand the duties of the profession, with a resolution to do all the good we can, within the compass of our ability. An envious spirit goes before a fall. The physician who expects to attain wealth and position by destroying another's reputation, will lead a life of disappointment, and die unlamented.

MARRIAGES.

James W. Stone, M. D., of Boston, to Miss J. R. Gillmer, of Trenton, N. J.

Dr. E. C. Bidwell, of Quasqueton, Iowa, to Miss T. C. Gibson.

DEATHS.

In San Francisco, Cal., Rev. W. Gray, father of Dr. H. M. Gray, of New York.

At Waldo, Josephine Co., Oregon Territory, a daughter of Dr. D. S. Holton.

In Mexico, Dr. Mears, from the U. S., murdered.

At Newport, England, Simon Gage Britton, M. D., 73. He was a surgeon of the Royal navy in 1806. When Lord Nelson lost his life at Trafalgar, Dr. Britton was acting surgeon of the *Pickle*, the vessel in that memorable engagement which carried despatches round the fleet. On retiring from the navy, he established himself as a surgeon at Bristol, where he was born. He has left a daughter and two sons. The latter are already distinguished for their scholastic attainments.

In London, David Aikin, Esq., late surgeon in the service of the East India Company, 73.

At Grove, High Gate, Eng., G. Frederick Lane, surgeon, 28.

At Falham, Eng., John A. Waring, Esq., surgeon, 48.

In Boston, Dr. Joshua Henshaw Hayward, 57. He was in good health, and attended to his usual business during the day. In the evening, he remarked that he had some writing which he wished to finish before retiring, and he was left alone. The following morning he was found dead sitting in his chair, having apparently been dead some six or eight hours. His death is supposed to have been caused by disease of the heart. He was son of Dr. Lemuel Hayward, formerly an eminent physician in Boston, and brother of the eminent living surgeon, Dr. George Hayward of Boston, was born the 6th of February, 1797, and graduated with distinction at Harvard College in 1818. On leaving college he chose the medical profession, and having completed the regular course of studies, was admitted to the degree of M. D. in 1821. He opened an office in this city, and pursued the practice of his profession a few years, when he relinquished it, and became a partner in the house of Fletcher & Hayward, wholesale druggists. Possessing a taste for the fine arts, he, a few years afterwards, devoted himself to portrait painting, which he followed for some

time with good success. In 1849 he was appointed a weigher in the Boston Custom House, which office he held until his death. He was a gentleman widely known and universally respected; of an amiable disposition, modest and unobtrusive in manner, and unblemished moral character. His death will be deeply regretted by his many friends and the community among whom he has passed his life. He married a daughter of the Hon. John McLean, of Ohio, by whom he had two children, a son and a daughter, who survive him. His wife deceased some twelve or fifteen years ago.

While residing in Italy, Dr. Hayward became acquainted with Lord Byron, which has been spoken of as having been mutually agreeable. Possibly, in Dr. Hayward's papers, unpublished letters of the great poet may be brought to light.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 29.

Philip Murray 1 day, Willie P. Kimball 3 days, Margaret Lassalli 18 mos., John F. White 7 do., Thos. Carrigan 7 do., Mary O'Neill 3 do., William Mahoney 4 do., Dennis Wrin 15 do., Catharine Lawless 2 do., James Lee 5 do., George W. H. Andrews 13 years, David C. Pendleton 2 do., Elisha Smith, jr. 41 do., Burns McDonald 34 do., Ann Collins 6 do., James Manning 50 do., Joanna Canovan 63 do., Eugene Taylor 2 do., Bridget Feeney 8 do., Mary Hagerty 4 do., William H. Fahey 3 do., Abraham Sternberg 2 do., Timothy Sullivan 3 do., Bridget O'Shea 2 do., John E. Kennedy 2 do., Jonas W. Chapman 53 do., Margaret McCoy 40 do., Joseph R. Hutchins 37 do., Catharine Healy 22 do., Horatio Nelson 36 do., Stephen McDonald 22 do., John O'Neal 45 do., John C. Daly 34 do., Edward L. Lawler 4 do., William Plunkett 2 do., Hannah B. Deland 66 do., Mary Nihane 50 do., Ellen Connolly 40 do., Daniel Dacey 16 do., John Clayton 54 do., George J. Gallagher 11 mos., George Farrell 14 do., Catharine Casey 9 do., Sarah B. Hamblen 8 do., Bridget Healy 2 do., Mary A. Connell 8 do., Margaret J. Donahoe 1 mo., Mary A. Flanagan 24 yrs., John McCloskey 22 do., Mary J. Crozier 2 do., Anthony Fitzpatrick 30 do., Bridget McMahon 50 do., Elizabeth Holian 3 do., Sarah J. Ainsworth 12 do., John O'Brien 24 do., James Hurley 25 do., Henry Kingman 39 do., Joanna A. Mila 4 do., Honora Fitzgerald 43 do., John Dougherty 40 do., Mary Da'ey 3 do., Joanna Sullivan 8 do., Harriet A. P. Eager 22 do., James D'Arcy 3 do., Jonathan Hopkins 50 do., Sarah F. Laskey 2 do., Sarah F. Lufkin 49 do., Mary E. Burke 3 mos., Henry Corcoran 18 do., Dennis Laverty 11 do., John Robinson 11 do., Mary E. Trainer 16 do., Mary Simpson 6 do., John Fitzgerald 1 day, Francis Inglis 68 yrs., Theodore Steinberg 27 do., Thomas Gauntlett 35 do., Ephraim Peabody 49 do., Rose McLaughlin 38 do., Joseph Simpson 8 mos., Margaret J. Murray 15 do., Mary E. Love 2 do., Susan E. Rafferty 11 do., Ellen Greeley 9 yrs., Michael Brown 30 do., Bridget Bulger 27 yrs., Mary T. Ulrich 6 do., Catharine Herald 46 do., Bridget McNamara 20 do.

DISEASES.—Congestion of brain 3, burned 2, consumption 15, croup 5, dropsy 3, dysentery 3, infantile diseases 3, unknown diseases 3, typhoid fever 2, scarlet fever 16, whooping cough 2, disease of heart 4, inflammation of lungs 3, marasmus 4, teething 4, other diseases 1 each, 18; total 88. Born in United States 60, Ireland 23, England 2.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

DECEMBER 17, 1856.

NUMBER 12.

VESALIUS.

[Concluded.]

Soon after the publication of his work in 1543, the name of Andreas Vesalius had become widely known at Court as that of a man gifted with preternatural skill in the art of healing. In the year 1546, Andreas went over from Venice, then his home, in company with the Venetian ambassador, to Regenspurg, where he was to exercise his skill upon the Emperor, and from that date he was ranked among the Emperor's physicians. On his way to Regenspurg, he stopped for a short time at Basle, and there gave a few demonstrations from a skeleton prepared by himself, which upon leaving he presented to the University. The skeleton was hung up in the lecture hall, with an inscription under it commemorating the event in this manner: —

ANDREAS VESALIUS BRUXELLENS.
CAROLI. V. AVG. ARCHIATRUS
LAUDATIS. ANATOMIRARUM
ADMISTR. COMM.
IN HAC URBE REGIA
PUBLICATURUS
VIRITE QUOD CERNIS SKELETON
ARTIS ET INDUSTRIAE SUAE
SPECIMEN
ANNO CHRISTIANO
1546
EXHIBUIT EREXITQUE.

This skeleton, prepared and presented to its anatomical school by the father of modern anatomy, still continues to be one of the curiosities of Basle.

From the Emperor, Vesalius was sent in the same year to attend one of his nobles; afterwards at Ratisbon he wrote and published (still in 1546) one of his works, a long letter to Dourhim Roelants entitled *De Usu Radicis*

Chince. In that work, while he professed to treat of the medicine by which the Emperor's health had been restored, he entered largely into a vindication of his teaching against all assailants, and a fresh exposition of the fact that Galen had dissected brutes alone. The letter, of which the greater part was devoted to self-assertion, contains much of autobiographical matter, and is the source from which many of the preceding details have been drawn.

Returning then to Italy, — his age being thirty two, — Andreas again taught and dissected publicly at Bologna, Padua, and Pisa. His object was to battle against opposition from the orthodox. With few exceptions, all the young men — all the next generation of physicians — declared themselves enthusiastically to be of the party of Vesalius. The old scholars and practitioners declared that innovation to be a mere infidel in anatomy, teaching a mass of errors.

Vesalius, to put down these people, wrote always on the day before each of his demonstrations, a public notice that it would take place, and that all men who denied his errors were invited to attend to make their own dissections from his subject, and confound him openly. Not a man ventured to accept the challenge, and in this way the opposition to Vesalius on the part of his immediate neighbors was very much held in check.

But from the old-fashioned teachers of the young in other towns — especially from Sylvius in Paris — the outcry against the heretic who had endeavored to shake faith in the word of Galen was incessant. In the year 1551, Sylvius broke out in print; his wrath was a long madness, and in his public lucubration the display of it runs to an excess that is quite pitiable. He accused his old pupil — whom, by way of a dull, rude joke, he everywhere calls Vesanus — as a monster of ignorance, arrogance, and ingratitude; a man who poisoned Europe by the breath of his impiety, and who

clouded knowledge by the infinitude of all his blunders. The animosity of Sylvius had become bitterly personal; and he even went so far as to accuse Andreas to the Emperor, and to seek an ally in one of the imperial physicians, Cornelius Barsdrop, whom he endeavored to bribe, not with money, but with bones, — namely, the skeleton of a child. All this hatred was not spent in vain. Sylvius was called upon as a credible witness, to substantiate his charges, by exhibiting the errors of Vesalius from his own dissection of the subject. He was unable to do so. The human body was perverse, and followed the descriptions of the heretic; but so completely was belief in Galen the religion of the old physicians, that Sylvius next declared the men of his own time to be constructed somewhat differently from the men who had lived so many centuries before. The ancients, at any rate, it was quite certain Galen had dissected and described infallibly. Rather let him believe that God's work had been altered, than that Galen had confounded men with monkeys.

The outcry raised against him by so many grave authorities, did in effect create in many minds a vague dread of Vesalius and his writings. They fell into bad odor at court; he performed wonderful cures, but when so much testimony went to show that the young man's writing was arrogant and impious, it was felt that it must be wrong to countenance his books. When, therefore, for the sake of his reputed skill as a practitioner in medicine, Vesalius was called to reside permanently at Madrid, the summons was attended with so many circumstances showing the success of those who clamored at his writings, that in a fit of proud indignation he spent one unlucky hour in burning all his papers. Thus he destroyed a huge volume of annotations upon Galen — a whole book of medical formulæ — many original notes upon drugs — the copy of Galen from which he lectured, covered with marginal notes of new observations that had occurred to him while demonstrating — and the paraphrase of the books of Rhases, in which the knowledge of the Arabian was collated with that of the Greeks and others. The produce of the labor of many years was thus destroyed in a short fit of passion. While the ashes of his manuscripts were yet before him, Andreas repented of his deed.

He lived no more for science. As a court physician at Madrid, it was of no use for Vesalius to teach anatomy to the inquisitors from bodies robbed out of the consecrated

ground. He lived upon his reputation, and indulged in all the ease compatible with the stiff life of a Spanish courtier. There was a second (augmented) edition of his *Fabric of the Human Body* published at Basle, in 1555, but it was left for scholars and physicians to fight out among themselves the question of its merits. Vesalius was dead to controversy and to study, but alive to gain and pleasure. The reputation he enjoyed as a physician was unbounded. One instance of his wonderful sagacity is an instructive instance of the growth of knowledge among men of the lancet. There is now scarcely a medical student in his third year who would not be ashamed to fail in the diagnosis of an aneurismal tumor. Such a tumor on a patient — a big and wonderful tumor on the loins — puzzled two famous imperial physicians, Adolph Oceone and Achilles Pisiminius. Vesalius being called into consultation, said: "There is a blood-vessel dilated; that tumor is full of blood." They were surprised at so strange an opinion; but the man died, the tumor was opened, blood was actually found in it, and we are told, *in admirationem rapti feuse omnes*.

Another case was of a more startling kind, though not so creditable to the physician. In 1548, Maximilian d' Egmont, Count of Busen, a favorite general, was ill at Brussels. He had a disease of the heart; and Vesalius being called in, not only said that he would die, but undertook, also, to predict the day and hour of death. In those days of astrology and superstition, the habit of desiring and of hazarding predictions was very common. Vesalius had seldom risked his reputation by the use of them, but this one brought its own fulfilment. The dread anticipation occupied the count's mind. On the appointed day he called his friends and relatives together to a feast, distributed gifts, declared his last wishes, took formal leave of all, waited with strong suppressed emotion for the appointed hour of death, and at the hour predicted actually died.

After the abdication of Charles V., Vesalius remained attached to the Court of Philip II. Don Carlos, Philip's son, having received a severe blow on the head, his life was despaired of till they called in Vesalius, who cut into the pericranium, and relieved him promptly. Brother physicians, however, said, even at court, that Vesalius only understood superficial injuries, and could not cure internal disease. Vesalius replied easily that the world outside the profession had a different opinion, and that he had no reason to envy any doctor in the

world the income he could make out of his skill. When Henry II., of France, was lying mortally sick of his lance wound, it was Vesalius whom Philip of Spain sent to save him from the clutches of death. But it was a long way from Madrid, and death was travelling much faster than the doctor.

The controversy concerning the infallibility of Galen was in the meantime raging with considerable violence. Renatus Henesus, a young man studying at Paris under Sylvius, felt annoyed at the incessant outcry against Vesalius, with which that professor was continually worrying his classes. He heard, also, that many sound and mature men disapproved of what, to his fresh heart, appeared very much like the bitterness of bigotry. Fuchs at Tübingen, Massa at Venice, and Rondelet at Montpellier, first-rate authorities, already taught without scruple many things that contradicted Galen. Henesus, finding this to be the case, determined on his own part to speak out on behalf of this much-abused reformer. He published, therefore, at Venice, in 1554, an apology for Vesalius, in which he spoke of Sylvius always with the respect due from a pupil to his teacher, and declared that he had never seen the man whose reputation he defended.

Among other attacks upon the reputation of the great anatomist, was one published in 1562 by Franciscus Puteus Vercellensis; but at that time Vesalius had shaken off a little of his lethargy, being apparently impressed with the belief that his fame was not secure. There appeared, therefore, a sharp reply to Francis Puteus from a writer calling himself Gabriel Cuneus. That writer, Cardan, his cotemporary and friend, with the best opportunities of knowing the truth, identifies with Andreas Vesalius himself. Internal evidence corroborates the statement of Cardan.

The fears of Vesalius concerning his good fame in the world of science had been excited in the year 1561 by the appearance of the *Anatomical Observations* of Fallopius. Gabriel Fallopius had been one of his pupils, and having mastered all the knowledge of his chief, had, from the advanced point so attained, continued with great skill and industry to push forward the knowledge of anatomy. While the scalpel of Vesalius was rusting, Fallopius was making new researches, and when, in the year 1561, he published the result of his labors after thirteen years of public teaching in Ferrara, and after having presided for eight

years over an anatomical school, he was of course able to enlarge the borders of the science. With a temper that more suited the tone of feeling in a courtier than in a scholar, Vesalius regarded the advanced knowledge of his pupil as an infringement of his rights. Though he had been twenty years away from work as an anatomist, and had at that time, in Madrid, no opportunity of testing the discoveries of Fallopius by actual dissection, he wrote hastily an angry, wrong-headed reply, an *Examen Observationum Fallopii*, in which he decried the friend who made improvements on himself, as he had been himself decried for his improvements upon Galen. The manuscript of this work, finished at the end of December in the year 1561, Andreas committed to the care of Paulus Teupulus, of Venice, orator to the King of Spain, who was to give it to Fallopius. War, however, so far obstructed travelling, that the orator did not reach Padua until after the death of Fallopius; he therefore very wisely retained and kept to himself all knowledge of the manuscript. Vesalius soon afterwards, on his way to Jerusalem, took possession of his work, and caused it to be published without more delay. It appeared, therefore, at Venice, in the year 1564.

The journey to Jerusalem, on which Vesalius set out from Madrid when in the full moon of his prosperity, is thus accounted for in a letter from Hubert Languet to Gasparus Teucerus: — "Vesalius, believing a young Spanish nobleman whom he had attended to be dead, obtained from his parents leave to open him, for the sake of inquiring into the real cause of his illness, which he had not rightly comprehended. This was granted: but he had no sooner made a cut into the body than he perceived the symptoms of life, and opening the breast he saw the heart beat. The parents, coming afterwards to know of this, were not satisfied prosecuting him for murder, but accused him of impiety to the Inquisition, in the hope that he would be punished with greater rigor by the judges of that tribunal than by those of the common law. But the King of Spain interfered and saved him, on condition, however, that by way of atonement he should make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land."

Upon this part of the story Boerhave and Allinus observe that the heart cannot well beat after so much dissection of the human frame as is necessary to expose it to the eye. It has been known, however, for centuries, that the irritability of muscles continues after death,

differing in different parts, and may be excited mechanically by slight stimulus. The ventricles of the heart lose the contractile power within fifty minutes after death; but in the auricles it remains for hours — longer, indeed, than in any other muscle. Such parts had been observed even by Galen, who, observing that in the right auricle the power of contracting under stimulus remained longer than in any other portion of the body, described that part as the *ultimum moriens*, the last to die. Involuntary contraction of this kind may have helped in the ruin of Vesalius, or perhaps the priests, who had long watched their opportunity, took care to make the most of a mechanical gurgling in the body, or a chance movement occasioned by some shaking of the table, and contrived at last so to fix with a fatal weight the accusation of impiety upon the bold man who had so long set them at defiance.

Imperialis ascribes the departure of Vesalius to the cabals of jealousy, and Severtius, who may, perhaps, himself have been troubled with a crusty partner, declares that he went to Jerusalem in order to escape from the tormenting temper of his wife. It does not appear, however, that Vesalius was a married man.

Quitting Madrid for Venice, Andreas set out upon the next stage of his journey, from Venice to Cyprus, in company with Giacomo Malatesta di Rimini, General of the Venetian army. From Cyprus he went on to Jerusalem, and was returning, not to Madrid, but to the labors of his youth as a professor at Padua, being invited by the Venetian Senate to occupy the chair of physic in that university, vacant by the death of Fallopius, when he was shipwrecked in the neighborhood of Zante. Cast ashore upon that island, there he perished miserably of hunger and grief, on the 15th of October, of the year 1564, before he had quite reached the age of fifty. His body was found some days afterward in a miserable hut by a travelling goldsmith, who recognized in its starved outlines the renowned features of Vesalius.

At the goldsmith's cost, therefore, the shipwrecked man was buried among strangers. After his death, a great work on surgery appeared in seven books, signed with his name, and commonly included among his writings. There is reason to believe, however, that his name was stolen to give value to the book, which was compiled and published by a Venetian, Prosper Bogaruni, a literary crow who fed himself upon the dead man's reputation.

DEPOSIT OF UREA

On the Skin and Mucous Membranes in the Typhoid Stage (Consecutive Fever) of Cholera. By Dr. A. Drasche. (Zeitschrift der k. k. Gesellsch. der Aerzte zu Wien. Jahrgang xii. 3 and 4 Monat. Heft, p. 161.)

During the consecutive fever of cholera, when the urine is suppressed, Dr. Drasche has observed a peculiar, fatty, shining perspiration on the forehead and face, which disappears on the return of the renal secretion. This perspiration, on evaporating, leaves a large number of minute crystals on the surface, in the form of micaceous laminæ, scales and granules. The crystalline deposit is first perceived on the eyebrows, and successively appears on the temples, nostrils, forehead, upper lip, and hairy scalp; the parts look as if dusted over with fine flour; the minute crystals are arranged round the orifices of the sebaceous glands. The crystals are not found until a late period on the neck, chest, upper arms, and abdominal parietes. They were only once seen on the lower extremities. At times the crystals may be found on the mucous membrane of the mouth and fauces. Dr. Drasche found the crystalline deposit invariably to disappear shortly before death, and to be replaced by a viscid fluid. Examined by the microscope, the crystals were found to consist of broken pieces of an acicular form, some of which still preserved the acuminate termination: they were colorless. The crystals were embedded in a yellowish, fatty mass, containing hair and epidermal cells. When allowed to crystallize from an alcoholic solution, long silky, colorless needles, arranged in pencils, formed, which were regarded as, and proved by chemical tests to be, urea.

The symptoms, according to Dr. Drasche, accompanying this secretion of urea on the surface of the skin, are mainly those of a disturbance of the nervous functions, especially of the brain, together with partial or complete arrest of the urinary secretion. The author has not invariably observed this cutaneous secretion of urea to be associated with complete arrest of the renal functions, as he has, in a few cases, succeeded in collecting or obtaining by the catheter a small quantity of urine, of a very low specific gravity (1004.6), with alkaline reaction, and of a dirty yellow color. In the case of a female, recently confined, who exhibited the cutaneous secretion of urea in a marked form, the milk contained but little casein, much sugar, and a considerable quantity of undecomposed urea, but not a trace of carbonate of ammonia.

The autopsy of the cases presenting the above phenomena showed an extensive tumefaction of the bronchial mucous membrane, with a hepatized condition of the inferior portions of the lungs. The kidneys were very soft, large, and tumefied, their surface presenting arborescent injection, and the renal veins being filled with dark, viscid blood. The entire mucous membrane of the urinary tract, presented a catarrhal condition.

Dr. Drasche, among 800 cases of cholera observed during the epidemic of 1855, met with the cutaneous secretion in 12 cases, all of which proved fatal during the consecutive fever of cholera. Only one of the twelve patients was a man, the others all women.

As all the cases in which Dr. Drasche observed the cutaneous evolution of urea proved fatal, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the fatal result was due to something else than an accumulation of urea in the blood, since the vicarious action of the skin would have prevented so uniform a mortality in the cases in which it was observed.

HYPERTROPHY OF THE MAMMARY GLAND.

This affection of the mammæ, which depends on an enlargement of the individual acini of the gland, and an increased accumulation of fat in the cellular tissue, is characterized by a constant, uniform, and painless increase of bulk. Dr. Fingerhuth distinguishes two forms; one which runs its course rapidly, and occurs at the period of puberty as a disease of development; the other, slow in its progress, and chiefly connected with disturbance in the functions of the generative system. The following observations are limited to the illustration of the first of these species.

The swelling commences in one of the breasts, generally the right, (for both are seldom affected simultaneously,) and is ushered in by a pricking sensation in the gland, sometimes accompanied by increased sensibility. The enlargement is uniform, and involves the whole breast. The disease always makes its appearance at the period of puberty, and is contemporaneous with the development of the mammæ: either the patient has never menstruated, or the catamenia are scanty and soon disappear. There is, however, a feeling of increased pressure and a more rapid increase of the swelling about the period of expected menstruation, in patients who have ceased to menstruate; during the intervals, the progress of the swelling is

slower, but more constant. Occasionally, the patient's voice undergoes a peculiar change; it becomes hoarse and rough; this lasts for two or more days, and then ceases for a time, appearing and disappearing without any obvious cause. In one of Dr. Fingerhuth's patients, of Esch, this hoarseness occurred at the period of expected menstruation; in others, he has not noticed this alteration of the voice. When the breast has attained a more considerable size, it is superficially softer, and the hard enlarged acini cannot be felt without making deeper pressure. About this time, also, the cutaneous veins become more distended, so as to give the skin somewhat of a bluish tint; the nipple becomes flatter and broader, and the areola more extended. In this way the swelling goes on increasing with more or less rapidity, until the breast has attained a very remarkable size; in some cases it is from eighteen to twenty inches in length, and from twenty to twenty-four in circumference, and weighs from ten to twelve pounds. The perspiration and blood of the patient have a peculiar smell, and the latter contains a large quantity of free carbonic acid. As the disease proceeds, the patient becomes impeded by the weight of the organ; the rest of the body generally emaciates; the thoracic viscera begin to sympathize; the patient complains of dyspnoë, and sense of weight in the chest, followed by cough, loss of strength, hectic, general exhaustion, and death. The progress of the disease, however, does not always correspond with this description, and its termination presents several varieties. Sometimes the swelling reaches a determinate height, and then remains stationary for years, or even for the patient's life, causing no other inconvenience than what is necessarily connected with its weight and bulk. Sometimes the disease terminates favorably; the swelling diminishes, and ceases to give any annoyance, but the breast never returns to the normal. Sometimes it ends in effusions of serum into sacs formed in the cellular tissue, in the interstices between the enlarged and hardened acini. Where it terminates in death, it is generally accompanied by symptoms of disease in the thoracic viscera,—as ulcerations of the bronchial mucous membrane, phthisis, and hydrothorax.

On anatomical examination, very little alteration is discoverable beyond the general increase of volume, and the enlargement of the individual acini. The cellular tissue is loose, its cells larger than natural, and containing a remarkable quantity of fat. The arteries exhibit no change, either in their structure or

their calibre ; but the lacteal tubes are swollen and enlarged, and the veins always remarkably dilated, and occasionally altered in their structure. The pulpy matter of the nerves seems to be diminished, and the nervous twigs appear firmer and harder than usual.

Dr. Fingerhuth looks upon this hypertrophy of the breast as a disease of development, depending on the exalted activity of the organ at the period of puberty. Among the exciting causes of the disease he reckons stimulant and heating diet, frequent manipulation, the use of fragrant washes of a stimulating nature, blows, and pressure.

With respect to the mode of treatment, he divides it into the radical and palliative. The first is accomplished by diminishing the increased activity of the organ, or by extirpating the diseased gland with the knife. The palliative treatment consists in making the patient wear a suspensory bandage, and avoid all pressure, or whatever is likely to irritate the organ ; in promoting the secretion, and prescribing a light vegetable diet, gentle exercise, and cheerful recreations. The following heads of cases will serve to illustrate the nature and treatment of this affection.

Case 1. L. W., aged 23, of delicate constitution. A painless swelling of the right breast made its appearance several years before, without any known cause, and gradually increased in size. When she consulted Dr. Fingerhuth, the tumor was twenty-six inches in circumference, painless, and exhibited a somewhat bluish spot at its lower part, which had a fluctuating feel. The patient was emaciated, and complained of weight about the præcordia, loss of appetite, constriction of the chest, and dry cough. She refused to submit to an operation for the removal of the diseased breast, but allowed Dr. Fingerhuth to puncture the soft part of the tumor ; from which three or four ounces of yellowish serum were discharged. Compression with a bandage was next tried, but the patient could not bear it, and refused all further medical aid. She died quite exhausted about five months afterwards. On dissection, the usual phenomena of hypertrophy were discovered. At two points the acini were of a firmer and harder consistence, and between them, in the cellular tissue, were two sacs filled with yellowish serum.

Case II. E. B., aged 17. A painless swelling of the right breast, of twelve months' standing. It had increased in a very remarkable manner during the two last months. She complained of a sense of fulness and pressure in

the breast during the menstrual period ; but there was no pain, and the temperature of the part was normal. She had used mercury to salivation, burnt sponge, leeches, and spirituous fomentations without any benefit: the breast gradually enlarged, and was now double the size of the other. The swelling was uniformly soft, not tense, and capable of bearing firm pressure. The swelling suddenly increased during the menstrual period, accompanied by a sense of heat and pressure ; the latter, however, ceased when menstruation was over, and the breast resumed its ordinary volume. The areola was large and somewhat dark, the nipple natural, the cutaneous veins distended, so as to give the breast a bluish tint. In other respects the patient was quite healthy.

Dr. Fingerhuth first tried the ioduret of mercury in the form of ointment : this was applied to the affected breast for twenty-four days without any benefit, and he therefore determined to have recourse to the only plan which offered a prospect of success ; viz., to bring on the natural secretion of the organ. This he attempted to effect by the application of a dry cupping-glass to the affected breast ; the cupping-glass was applied regularly for a fortnight, without any effect ; the swelling increased, and the patient frequently complained of a feeling of heat and tension in the breast ; but, on the sixteenth day, the milk began to flow in a small quantity, and at the end of the third week, a considerable quantity was discharged twice a day, and the breast became evidently diminished in size. In addition to the use of the cupping-glass, the patient was directed to take an iodine bath every fifth day, support the breast with a suspensory bandage, live on vegetable diet, and take gentle exercise in the open air. The feeling of dragging, tension, and heat disappeared and, at the end of twelve weeks, during which the aforesaid remedies were sedulously employed, the breast was reduced almost to the natural size, and had the normal feel. The cupping-glass was now less frequently applied, and the iodine bath was used only once every ten days. The breast was then soft, nearly of the natural size, (an inch longer than the sound one,) and nothing abnormal could be felt in the interior of the gland.

Case III. M. K., aged 16, of slender make but sound constitution, consulted Dr. Fingerhuth for a painless swelling of the right breast of eighteen months' standing, supposed to have originated from pressure. She had tried leeches, compresses, ointments, purgatives, and homœopathy, without effect ; and, when seen by

Dr. Fingerhuth, the affected breast was twice as large as the sound one. She complained of fulness, tension, and flushes of heat in the breast, and stated that the tumor increased greatly in size during the menstrual periods. Her general health was good; but she menstruated irregularly, laboured under constipation, and was of a very irritable, nervous habit.

With the view of removing the constipation and diminishing nervous excitement, Dr. Fingerhuth ordered aperients, iodine baths, a vegetable diet, and gentle exercise. In about a fortnight, the nervous susceptibility was so much diminished that he was able to take measures to bring on the lacteal secretion; these proved successful in the course of three weeks, and, at the end of the seventh week, the breast had diminished an inch in circumference. At the end of eleven weeks, he began to apply the cupping-glass less frequently, with the view of gradually arresting the secretion of milk; but the iodine baths and other remedial measures were continued. Under this treatment, the affected mamma was greatly reduced in size, and, though it remained somewhat larger than the left, Dr. Fingerhuth thought it advisable to suspend the further use of remedial agents, and leave the rest to nature. The patient was therefore directed to resume her usual occupations, merely taking precautions to protect the breast from pressure, or any other cause of irritation.

American Medical Association.—From all accounts, the idea has gone abroad that the annual volume issued under the authority of this excellent association, which contains a full report of all the papers read before the members, drags rather heavily in the way of sale.

Now this is unfortunate, and we sincerely urge and recommend to our patrons to procure the volume on account of the record it presents of the profession. If there are some heavy articles in the volume which make more bulk than favorable impressions, there is so much that is truly excellent, no where else to be had, that it would be a reproach to the profession were these transactions to become a bill of expense to the association.

By a resolution of the Association at Detroit, the treasurer was instructed to inform the members that the resolution passed at the meeting at St. Louis, depriving a permanent member of the Association who should neglect to subscribe yearly to the Transactions of membership, has been repealed.

Therefore, all those who have ever served as delegates to a meeting of the Association are restored to membership, and may purchase the Transactions for any year or not, as may suit their pleasure.

When the Transactions are desired, it is the privilege of a permanent member to be able to purchase them at the same price that is paid by a delegate, *three dollars*, no yearly assessment being now required of permanent members.

There are copies of all the back volumes of the Transactions in the hands of the Association for sale, except Vol. IV. Any of these may be purchased upon application to the Treasurer, by permanent members, for *three dollars* apiece, except Vol. VI., which is *five dollars*, by addressing Caspar Wister, Treasurer Am. Med. Asso., No. 479 Arch street, Philadelphia.

STRANGULATED FEMORAL HERNIA OF THE RIGHT SIDE.

COMPLICATED WITH DESCENT OF THE OVARY,
OPERATION, AMPUTATION OF THE OVARY,
CURE.

BY WM. BRODIE, M. D.

On the 26th of September last, I was requested by Dr. Pitcher to accompany him on a visit to Mrs. E., residing in the upper part of this city, with the intention of operating for the relief of a Strangulated Femoral Hernia.

Fifteen years previous, Mrs. E., while lifting her oldest child, a heavy boy of three years of age, from the floor, felt something give way in her right groin, which occasioned at the time much pain. Very soon a tumor appeared of the size of her knuckle, as she described it. After the application of cold to the part, the pain left her, but the tumor remained. She felt no further inconvenience till seven years ago, when after lifting she again had a return of the pain complicated with a strangulation of the intestines. This was again reduced by the application of cold and a plaster, which had been recommended to her as a sure cure for rupture. After this time, the tumor still remaining began increasing slowly, notwithstanding she continually wore a truss, which she found great difficulty in doing.

On the 22d of the month, being at this time the mother of a large family and of a corpulent habit, she had a return of her hernia. Her physician was called in, who ordered her to have a warm sitz bath, and afterwards a

belladonna plaster to be applied to the tumor. This gave her no relief. The pain was very severe, and at times attended with vomiting. On the 26th, Dr. Pitcher was called to see her, and ordered pulverized ice to be applied, the taxis having failed to reduce it. The next day she was no better, when I saw her with Dr. Pitcher and Dr. Christian. The tumor, which was about the size of a hen's egg, gave a firm fleshy sensation to the touch. The usual impulse was felt upon the coughing of the patient, but no return of the gut could be brought about. As there was no constitutional symptoms demanding the immediate resort to surgical interference, it was deemed best to continue the cold.

Dr. Pitcher saw her the next day, and afterwards till the afternoon of the 29th, when the patient was suffering with increase of pain and stercoraceous vomiting.

At the request of Dr. Pitcher, I again attended the patient with himself and Dr. Batwell, when it was decided to immediately operate. The patient was put under the influence of chloroform by Dr. Pitcher, and assisted by Dr. Batwell, I proceeded with the operation. Upon cutting down on the tumor, instead of finding the swelled knuckle of intestine, a fleshy mass of the size of an egg was discovered, firmly adherent in its sac. I carried my finger above and behind the tumor and felt the gut; neither gut nor tumor could be reduced. The stricture was then divided, which consisted of a portion of Gimbernat's Ligament, and the gut immediately returned, with immediate relief to the patient. The tumor was then examined, and found to be one of the ovaria. It was then dissected from its adhesions, and a ligature being applied, it was removed. The patient, being at this time in a conscious state, expressed her desire of evacuating the bowels, which event took place freely after the dressing of the wound, they not having been moved for a week previous. Some inconvenience was felt from the slight hemorrhage and the protrusion of the omentum. A few sutures and a compress completed the operation, and the patient was put to bed. Mrs. E. suffered some pain in the bowels, which soon left.

On the fourth day a free discharge of pus took place from the wound, and on the eighth day the ligature came away. She has continued gradually to improve. Her bowels are perfectly regular, and her appetite is quite natural. ^{inc} She complains of a little weakness of the right side, but thinks it will go away in the course of a few days. A very slight dis-

charge still continues from the wound, which has not entirely healed.

The above case is particularly interesting from its complication. The ovary must have been down for the last seven years, if not longer; evidently it must have preceded that of the intestine. This organ was about three times its natural size, its free or convex border presenting in its convexity, was the knuckle of intestine. As we have mentioned before, the ovary was adherent to the surrounding tissues, therefore demonstrating the fact that it must have been in that situation for some time. We have examined cursorily the literature of hernia, as far as we could obtain it, and although we have found almost every thing else mentioned as complicating hernia, whether femoral or inguinal, we have not found the *ovaria* of the number enumerated. — *Penin. Jour. of Med.*

DETROIT, October 24, 1856.

SUMMARY OF THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF PHILADELPHIA.

PREPARED FROM THE PUBLISHED TRANSACTIONS.

STATED MEETING, Nov. 7, 1855.

Acetate of Lead in Yellow Fever. Symptoms of the disease.—Dr. Wood made some remarks on the use of lead in the treatment of yellow fever. It is well known that the first stage of the disease consists in one long, continuous febrile paroxysm, which after a duration of one, two, or three days, rather suddenly subsides into a period of apparent remission, which is really the period of greatest danger, the patient, in bad cases, being much prostrated, and often throwing up large quantities either of pure blood, or of altered blood in the form of black vomit. Of course, in a great many cases, the blood is irreparably poisoned, and all remedial efforts are of no avail. But there are others, in which the chances are about evenly balanced between life and death, and in which the occurrence of gastric hemorrhage might turn the scale against life by increasing a debility already as great as the vital forces are adequate to struggle through. Now in such cases there is a strong indication to prevent this exhausting hemorrhage. Besides, in the same stage, there is a species of inflammation of the gastric mucous membrane, as indicated by the exquisite epigastric tenderness

during life, and the appearances presented upon examination after death. This strongly tends to a disorganization of the tissue, and to that effusion of altered blood, so well known, and so much dreaded under the name of "black vomit." Dr. Wood believes that this discharge is not attributable solely to the state of the blood, but somewhat, also, to the condition of the mucous membrane. Here then is another indication; namely, to obviate the phlogosed condition of the membrane, to empty as far as possible the inflamed vessels of the blood that was distending them, and thus give them some opportunity of resuming their healthy functions.

Now he knows no medicine so well calculated to meet these two indications as the acetate of lead,—at the same time an energetic stringent and a decided sedative. This remedy, so long since as 1820, was recommended and employed by Dr. Irving, of Charleston, S. C.; and Dr. Wood, having had several opportunities of trying it under the circumstances mentioned, is satisfied that it should receive further attention, and more ample trial. He does not suppose that it will cure all cases. He should despair of a cure from it after black vomit had fairly taken place. But with his present views, he considers it as probably having the power of preserving life in some cases, and as deserving the notice of the profession.

Attention is necessary to the *period and circumstances of its administration*. It should be commenced with, at the earliest signs of the approach of the second stage. This is highly important, as after this it will probably be too late. It should be given in doses of two grains every two hours, without the accompaniment or simultaneous use of any other substance that might serve to decompose it; and should be continued steadily until thirty-six grains have been taken.

The use of the acetate does not preclude the application of leeches or a blister to the epigastrium, one or both of which Dr. Wood has employed in all the cases in which he has used the remedy.

Dr. Condie had had the opportunity of witnessing the employment of this remedy, which was given rather to arrest than prevent black vomit, and it was found to be quite useless. He thinks oil of turpentine exerts some control over the symptoms in question, and this he believed is in accordance with the observations of others. His own results and those of other professional gentlemen, from the use of acetate of lead, also perfectly coincided.

Dr. Levick spoke of some peculiarities in one of the cases referred to by Dr. Wood. The patient came from a healthy locality, and merely passed through the infected places. With him were three other persons, who all escaped the disease. He was attacked just two weeks after passing through the town of Jackson, where yellow fever prevailed, and also after frost had occurred there. The phenomena of invasion were also remarkable. First, an attack of cholera morbus produced by indulgence in eating oysters, followed by urticaria, which disappeared, and the indisposition seemed to be at an end. On the next day at noon, he was seized with a chill, and in the afternoon the nettle-rash reappeared. This was the commencement of the yellow fever, and the next day the conjunctivæ were injected and jaundiced. There was great epigastric tenderness, and the patient shrank from the least pressure upon this region. His pulse was 120; he had no pain in the back, but severe pain in the head whenever he moved.

Dr. Emerson referred to the importance which is attached to tenderness of the epigastrium by practitioners in New Orleans as a distinctive mark of yellow fever. It is usual for this region to be sensitive in the various grades of bilious fever, but the acute tenderness, the shrinking from contact, that had been mentioned, appeared to be peculiar to the disease at present under notice.

Dr. La Roche observed that the absence of lumbar pain was a peculiarity of the late epidemic, both here and at the South. The epigastric tenderness is not always excessive. In most cases, too, it is not developed till the third or fourth day. The late Dr. Monges was of opinion that in bilious fever this symptom made its appearance earlier. In a case recently observed by Dr. La Roche there was no sensitiveness of the epigastrium to pressure. This, it is true, was a case of relapse in consequence of great errors of diet. The symptom in question, it must be acknowledged, does really exist in a large majority of cases, while at the same time it cannot be regarded as essential or pathognomic.

Dr. T. H. Bache spoke of the prominence of this symptom in twenty-three cases which he studied at the Pennsylvania Hospital, in 1853, as contrasted with a number of cases of bilious fever in the institution at the same time, in none of which did such extreme sensibility of the epigastrium exist.

Dr. Wood remarked, as a peculiarity of this symptom, that patients who manifested it sel-

dom complained of spontaneous suffering in the stomach. The pain appeared excited by external pressure alone.

Dr. Jewell saw two cases during the late epidemic, in neither which was there any great degree of epigastric tenderness, and in neither was there much pain in the head or back. One of the cases was very mild.

STATED MEETING, Dec. 5, 1855.

Prevalence of Intermittent Fever. — Dr. Bell stated that he had heard of the prevalence of intermittent fever in the city, among persons who had not been out of town. He had not met anything of the sort himself, and wished to learn what other physicians had observed.

Dr. Coates had seen but one such himself; it was of the quotidian type; had yielded to quinine, although convalescence was unusually slow.

Dr. Wood had heard that the disease prevailed beyond the city in unusual situations. In the mountains near Bedford, for example, he was informed that eight cases had originated within a district where, for twenty years before, no such affection had showed itself.

Dr. Thomas stated, that, during the present season, there had been an unusual demand for the preparations of cinchona; a fact which seem to indicate a corresponding prevalence of periodical fevers.

Prevalence of Smallpox. — Dr. Jewell spoke of the marked increase in the number of deaths from smallpox. Since the first of January last, 240 had been reported, and four-fifths of these were in persons under ten years of age. He attributed this occurrence, in great part, to the imperfect performance of the work of vaccination, owing to the negligence of the constituted authorities.—*Phil. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY. — At the conversational meeting held Nov. 12th, Dr. John Bell made remarks on the subject of the hygienic treatment of disease. He dwelt upon the use of the non-naturals in the cure of disease. Spoke of the Roman Baths, Calisthenics, Exercises, &c.; of the different form and qualities of baths, and their uses in Hæmophthyses, Dysenteries, and Hemorrhages, Typhoid and Typhus fevers, Chronic Rheumatism, Scarlet Fever, and several other diseases. The discussion was carried on by Drs. Coats, Bryan, and Turnbull. We are

sorry so few of the members find time to attend these conversations. The young members should attend to keep themselves posted up, and the older ones to instruct the younger. — *Phil. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE — DECEMBER MEETING, NEW YORK.

Seaweed, Bread and Chocolate — Dr. Brown — Sequard on Epilepsy — Delinquent Members Stirred Up.

The regular monthly meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine was held at the small chapel of the University, Dr. WILLARD PARKER, President, in the Chair. After the election of several new members, Dr. Griscom, Chairman of the section on Public Health, made a very long and elaborate report in regard to the use of marine algæ as medicated and nutritious food. These vegetable growths of the ocean had been the subject of long and unwearied experiment by the Messrs. Coddington of this city, who had finally incorporated their principal elements, mixed with flour, chocolate, &c., into cakes of convenient form and palatable in their taste. By order of the Academy the Section had examined these preparations, and now reported at much length in their favor. It was supposed that the iodine of these plants would be incorporated with the bread formed from them, and so be advantageously administered to those who might require this medicine in a natural form, and one which would probably be easily assimilated. The report went into the matter at much length, the paper occupying three-quarters of an hour in the reading. The paper was ordered to be printed in the Transactions of the Academy.

The Foreign Corresponding Secretary, Dr. J. W. Green, presented papers from the Imp. Roy. Soc. of Vienna, and also a letter from Prince Krow Woang de Tirat-Sanib, brother to the King of Siam, acknowledging receipt of Diploma and inclosing some of his visiting cards. Dr. Wood, Surgeon to steam-frigate San Jacinto, says that he is the most influential man in Siam, and has done a great deal towards establishing friendly relations. He offers to be of service in procuring any object or furthering science.

Dr. Bachelder, by permission, then exhibited a patient who had been hamiplegic, and who had been taught to walk and use his limbs over again, by re-associating the mind with

the muscles. The case was an interesting one, if it did not appear entirely satisfactory to all those present that the improvement in the muscular power was solely owing to the instruction given.

Dr. Brown-Sequard, the distinguished Franco-American physiologist, was then introduced to the Academy, and proceeded to detail some discoveries recently made by him, having reference to the cause and cure of epilepsy. He stated that, in the course of his investigations, he had discovered that he had the power at his will of producing epilepsy, or a train of symptoms in every appreciable respect counterfeiting this disease, in dogs, cats, and more surely, in fact always, in the guinea pig, an animal peculiarly liable to this disease. This animal was first subjected to a section of the lateral half of the spinal cord near the eleventh or twelfth dorsal vertebrae. After the lapse of four or five weeks, it was noticed that the state commenced in which these symptoms could be effected. The first result of this operation was the paralyzation of one side—that opposite to the part of the cord severed, showing, as demonstrated elsewhere, the crossing of the fibres of the spinal cord. The second, some time subsequently, was the *hyperæsthesia*, or increased sensibility of the unparalyzed side, while the anæsthesia or paralyzation of the other was gradually lessened. This the learned Professor manifested by exhibiting a guinea-pig on which this operation had been performed. The one side was shown to be far more sensitive than the other, pain being produced by very slight excitement on the one, while the other was comparatively unaffected.

It is noticed that the sensibility was on the right side only when the irritation was on that side, and only in a small part, and that uniformly in a very circumscribed portion of that part, i. e., a small part of the face and neck near the angle of the jaw. On irritating this sensitive spot the epileptic manifestations were marked and easily perceptible to all present. What the cause of these symptoms were, he could not state. It surely was not from the acuteness of the pain, for when the roots of the nerves which went to this sensitive spot were irritated, no such phenomena were exhibited. It was manifestly due only to the skin whose condition was exalted, as we see in some kinds of cough which is produced by irritation of the mucous membrane, but which is not produced by irritation of the trunks of the very nerves that nourish this mucous membrane.

These results he had noted in some thirty cases at least, and the sensitive spot invariably occurred in the same region, and the same results invariably occurred on irritating it. Convulsions of this character could be produced at will, but those which were first produced after a long respite were of a longer duration and stronger in their character. Sometimes they continued ten minutes, but he had noted if too frequently repeated in rapid succession, that paralysis of the pulmonary nerves was induced, which resulted in the death of the animal.

There are several other, perhaps unimportant but yet noticeable features, connected with this experiment. It is well known that these animals abound in certain little insects, whose name I will not mention in this refined assembly. It may be noticed in this, as in all other cases, that multitudes of their eggs are deposited upon this sensitive portion and in far greater numbers than upon any other part of the body. The thermometer shows that the temperature at this point is two or three degrees warmer than the rest of the surface; also thicker, richer in blood, and evidently hypertrophied. In these cases, too, the eyes are apt to be diseased, particularly subject to ulcerations of the cornea. Whether this is a general rule with mankind when similarly diseased, I cannot say, although Desmorres said that he had seen such correspondence, and Dr. Volke mentioned to me that he has also noted it.

These facts all seem to prove that the spinal cord has more influence upon the nutrition of various portions of the body than has heretofore been supposed.

The *aura epileptica* has been supposed to indicate the part of the body which originated the convulsion. Although this may not be the case, it yet may indicate the portion where a tenderness may exist, corresponding to the sensitive portion observed in the guinea pig this evening. In two cases only has the speaker been able to observe any tender spot, and in both of these pressure upon them had produced an epileptic convulsion. If the attention of the profession was directed to this idea, perhaps some important fact might be elicited.

In regard to the treatment, he had discovered a positive and unerring cure for this epilepsy of these animals. He had found that the division of the nerves leading to this sensitive part invariably resulted in a perfect cure of epilepsy, so that no irritation would produce a fit. Whether this would be the case in the human species he could not say. Cauterization of the sensitive spot with the actual cau-

tery had also the same result. But few observations had been made upon man, but in the few that had been the result was invariable. When there was a distinct *aura epileptica* arising from a small part of the body or limb, and when a section of the nerves leading to it has been made, a complete arrest of the convulsions has in every case followed. He thought the matter worthy the attention of therapeutists, and he hoped they would look for the signs mentioned in such cases of epilepsy as were brought to their notice, and give the suggestions a trial. He thanked the Academy for their attention, &c.

On motion of Ex-President Dr. J. M. Smith, seconded by members, a vote of thanks was presented to Dr. S.

The report of the Trustees, that all members in arrears for dues for two years to the Academy, not paying up in one month after a notification by the Trustees, should forfeit their membership — after being considerably debated, and the names of many delinquents, some among the richest in the Academy, being whispered about, who had the honor of membership, but who never paid their dues — the resolution was passed almost unanimously. After the nomination of officers for the ensuing year, the Academy adjourned. — *N. Y. Times*.

SELECTIONS FROM FAVORITE PRESCRIPTIONS OF LIVING AMERICAN PRACTITIONERS.

BY HORACE GREEN, M. D.

Excitants and Alteratives. — We have spoken of the valuable properties of the *protoiodide of mercury*, especially when this salt is administered with the iodide of potassium. There are several other salts, the product of iron and its combinations, which are medicinal agents of great value. The therapeutic action of these compounds is various. The iodide of iron acts as a *tonic*; the iodide of *mercury*, as we have stated, operates as an *alterative*; the *iodide of arsenic*, as an *excitant* and *tonic*; the *iodide of lead* as a *diuretic*; and the *iodide of sulphur*, acts most decidedly on the skin.

℞ Arsenici Iodidi. gr. iij
Extract Conii. ʒss

Misce; Fiant pilulæ xxx quorum sumantur una ter indie.

This medicine, after many other remedies have failed, has been employed with great success, in the treatment of some most inveterate

cases of certain chronic cutaneous diseases; particularly lepra, psoriasis, and venereal eruptions. The dose may be cautiously increased to the one-fifth of a grain, three times a day. When gastric disorder supervenes, the medicine should be for a time suspended, and be subsequently renewed in the original dose.

Some practitioners in this country employ, with success, in the same affections, a combination of a solution of the arsenite of potash, and of the compound solution of iodine; as in the following extemporaneous preparation:

℞. Liquor. Potassæ Arsenitis. ʒij

Liquor. Iodidi Potassii Comp. ʒss

Fiat mist. cujus cap. gtt. v. ter. in die.

Both of the above preparations of iodine and arsenic are employed with great advantage, in the treatment of cancerous affections, particularly when these remedies are conjoined with the following ointment of the iodide of lead, employed as an external application:

℞. Plumbi Iodidi. ʒij

Axungiæ. ʒij

Misce intim.

A small amount of this ointment may be rubbed in, twice a day, over cancerous, or other indolent tumors.

Under the head of *Tonics* and *Stimulants*, we have spoken of the therapeutic value of the iodide of *manganese* in the treatment of cancerous affections, glandular enlargements, and some other obstinate diseases. We have had prepared by an excellent apothecary of this city, after the formula of Proctor, a *syrup of the iodide of manganese*, which, as an excitant and alterative, is superior to the syrup of the iodide of iron, in the treatment of many diseases. This medicine — the syrup of the iodide of manganese — may be readily prepared in the following way:

℞. Manganesii sulph. ʒxvj

Potass. Iodidi. ʒix

Dissolve the manganese and the potassium separately, each in three fluid ounces of water, to which are added two fluid drachms of syrup. When the precipitation of the crystals of sulphate of potassa, which will follow, is completed, filter the supernatant liquor through a fine muslin into a vessel containing *twelve ounces* of pulverized sugar. Then add to this, water sufficient to make the whole amount to *one pint*. Shake until the sugar is well dissolved, and keep the syrup in a glass-stopped bottle. In tuberculosis, in scrofulous and cancerous affections, in the treatment of glandular enlargements, such as those of the spleen and of the neck, and in constitutional syphilis, the

syrup of the iodide of manganese, administered in doses of from ten to twenty drops, twice or thrice a day, will be found to be a valuable remedial agent.

As *alterative* remedies, the preparations of *mercury* are more employed by practitioners, than any of the other inorganic agents. Administered in small doses, the *bi chloride* of mercury is a valuable excitant. Its effects are more decidedly alterative, says Neligan, than those of any other preparation of the metal. In cases of chronic follicular disease, where the symptoms indicate the presence of a thickening of the mucous membrane of the larynx, and in the early stage of some forms of pulmonary disease, we have found the bi chloride of mercury a most efficient alterative, and altogether one of the best therapeutic preparations of this mineral.

R. Hydrarg. chlorid. corrosiv. gr. iv

Extract. Conii. ℥ij

Fiat massa. in pilulas quadraginta divide. Sumat unam, mane et nocte.

An experienced practitioner affirms that in hepatization of the lungs, the solid matter deposited in the air-cells is often absorbed and the cells rendered permeable to air by the use of this preparation. In irritable subjects, opiates should be conjoined with this remedy, as the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels is sometimes irritated by its use.

R. Hydrarg. chlorid. corrosiv. gr. iv

Extract. Opii. gr. x

Extract. gentian. ℥ij

Misce; Fiant pilulæ xl quorum sumatur unam bis terve in die.

This preparation has also been highly extolled in secondary venereal affections, in chronic cutaneous diseases—particularly those which are attended with dry, scaly eruptions, and in chronic rheumatism and arthritis. The following is the formula of Dzondi of Halle, who is a great advocate for the use of the bi-chloride of mercury:

R. Hydrarg. chlo. corrosiv. gr. xii

Solve in aq. distil. q. s.

Adde micæ Panis albi.

Saccharis albi aa q. s. ut. fit pilulæ numero cxxl.

Of these pills—each of which contains the twentieth of a grain of the mercury—two may be given night and morning.

In many of the above chronic forms of disease, this medicine is advantageously administered, conjoined with a vegetable bitter tonic:

R. Hydrarg. chlo. corrosiv. gr. iv

Tinct. Gentianæ. ℥iv

Syr. Aurantii ℥ij

Misce; quorum date coch. parv. ter. in die.

As an excitant and an alterative, in many of the diseases in childhood, the hydrargyrum cum creta has been more universally employed than any of the other preparations of this mineral. It is, however, like the blue mass, not always a perfect preparation, as it consists of metallic mercury in a state of minute division, mechanically combined with the sub-oxide of mercury, and the carbonate of lime. But it has not been ascertained in what proportions the metal and the oxide exist.

As a gentle and more certain laxative and alterative, and one equally well adapted for infancy and childhood, some eminent American practitioners prefer, altogether, the *chloride of mercury* minutely subdivided by being thoroughly triturated with a large amount of sugar.

To one part of calomel add ten parts, by weight, of white sugar.

R. Hydrarg. chlorid. mitis, ℥i

Sacchari alb. ℥x

Triturate the two substances in a wedgewood mortar for ten or fifteen minutes, so as to subdivide minutely, and intimately blend, the calomel and the sugar.

Those who have never tried the mercury thus prepared, will be surprised at the increased activity which will be imparted to the medicine, by this fine subdivision of its particles. Indeed, it is to this well-established fact, that many medicines become much more active by minute subdivision, that the whole secret of the Hahnemannic "potency," or remedies, may be referred.*

Five grains of the above preparation, will contain half a grain of calomel, and this small amount, taken on going to bed, will produce, with most persons, a mild laxative effect, the following day. With young children, half this amount, or from two to three grains of the medicine placed on the tongue, (and children take it as readily as they will pure sugar,) will be sufficient, ordinarily, to prove cathartic.

A physician of this State, of large experience, who practises in a region of the country where dysentery prevails as an endemic almost annually, assures us that this preparation of calomel is his favorite, and most efficient remedy, in the treatment of dysentery in children. He administers *one grain* of the powder, once in four or six hours; employing, at the same

* The editors of the "British Journal of Homœopathy," admit, in a late number of this Journal, "the theory of dynamization to be untenable, and that it is now rejected by the great majority of Hahnemann's disciples."—*Jour. of Hom July, 1852.*

time, injections of a solution of morphia, to control the dysenteric discharges. With this plan of treatment he has succeeded, he affirms, in arresting the disease more frequently than with any other method.

More than twenty years ago, we were instructed by our preceptor—who has since been a distinguished lecturer and writer on *Materia Medica*—to employ the following combination; as our “official” preparation of calomel:

℞. Hydrargyri chloridi mitis. 3ij
 Extract. opii.
 Ipecac. pulv. aa gr. vj

Pulverize, and mix intimately and thoroughly, as in the preceding combination.

Thus prepared, every scruple of calomel will contain one grain each of opium and ipecacuanha, intimately combined with the mineral.

During a period of twenty years, we have used no other preparation of calomel than the above in our practice. We have recommended its employment in our lectures to the students and graduates of the N. Y. Medical College, and to many physicians, who have adopted its use; and we venture the assertion that no practitioner, after having once employed this combination, will prefer, afterwards, to prescribe pure calomel in the treatment of disease. Under all circumstances, a given amount of this combination, whether administered as a laxative or an alterative, will prove fully as efficient as double the amount of pure or uncombined calomel; and without producing—whether given to children or adults—at all that degree of irritation, which ordinarily follows the administration of the latter. As a laxative, from three to five grains may be administered to an adult, and from one and a half to three grains, to children.

Besides the excitants and alteratives which are obtained from inorganic substances, there are important therapeutic agents of this kind belonging to the organic or vegetable kingdom, which are of much value.

The extract of *Podophyllum*, or *May-apple*, is much used as a remedial agent by physicians in some parts of this country; and when the remedial value of the preparation of this plant is better known, it will be still more extensively employed by the profession.

℞. Extracti Podophylli. 3j
 Extract. Aloes Hepat. 3iij
 Gambogiæ. 3j

Misce: Fiat pillulæ lx.

The above constitutes excellent alterative and cathartic pills, and may be administered

with great advantage in cases of hepatic derangement, in anasarca, and in all glandular diseases.

The following is the favorite cathartic pill of an eminent practitioner of Connecticut:

℞. Extracti Podophylli. 3ij
 Hydrarg. Chlorid. mitis. 3v
 Olei Cajuputi gtt. vj
 M. Fiat massa, in pillulas lx. div.

Instead of the extract we have recently employed the *podophyllin*, which is the active principle of the plant, obtained from its root, and which, from the commendation of several of our professional friends, and from the trial we have ourselves made, we are confident will prove to be an addition to our *Materia Medica*, of great value.

Judiciously administered, it is a superior excitant and alterative, and, in appropriate doses, a certain and safe cathartic. Care should be taken not to prescribe this remedy in too large doses, as it is apt to produce griping and nausea when thus administered. This, however, is said to be effectually prevented by combining the medicine with a diffusible stimulant.

℞. Podophyllin. gr. xv
 Zinizberis pulv. 3ss
 Ext. Gentianæ. 3ss

M. Fiat mass. et in pillulas xxx div.

These pills may be administered in all cases in which the blue mass or other mild mercurials are given. This remedy has been highly recommended in cases of secondary syphilis, when mercury has been long continued or is from any cause inadmissible. Administered in a full cathartic dose, it is declared to have been eminently successful in the expulsion of ascarides; and also, when thus administered and followed in four or six hours with a full draught of olive oil to the amount of four or six ounces podophyllin, has proved successful, it is said, in many instances, in the dislodgment and expulsion of large quantities of biliary calculi, with very little pain. Triturated with sugar in the same manner as we have recommended calomel to be prepared, podophyllin is a most excellent laxative and alterative.

℞. Podophyllin. 3j
 Sacchari albi. 3xix

Mix and triturate until the two be finely subdivided and thoroughly blended. As a mild laxative and alterative, this powder may be exhibited in doses of from five to ten grains. The medicine may be given in all cases where mercurials are indicated.—*Phil. Med. and Surg. Jour.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NO. VI.—BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Frequent Removals.—Cause, originated with the Clergy—The People soon Learned it—Sleepy Hearers—No Excuse—Ministerial Tones—Sermons too nice—President Wayland—Archbishop Usher.

It has been hinted, in a previous number, that frequent *removals* of clergymen often prove injurious to their health. A word more on this point may not be amiss.

If a man is worth anything, the longer he remains in one place, the more useful he will be. If he is worthless, the oftener he resembles the "rolling stone, gathering no moss,"—doing no good,—either to himself, or others, the better for all concerned. But no clergyman of common feelings, and especially, of sensitive nerves, can have all his plans of usefulness thwarted, and all his social relations (save those of his family, and sometimes these even,) broken up without a severe shock to his nervous system, often so severe as to impair health.

For the last few years, these frequent and sudden removals may have been chargeable, chiefly to a restlessness among the people; to "itching ears," and to "covetousness, which is idolatry." The people are in fault. But though, as often happens, they may be *now* more blameworthy than the clergy, yet they were not "first in this transgression." Now the question here arises, who were the *original* transgressors? Did this evil first spring up from among the clergy themselves? Whoever looks back upon the relation of pastor and people, for the last thirty or forty years, and calls to remembrance the permanency of the pastoral relation then, will see, not only, that a great change, in this relationship, has come over us; but, also, that it *originated* in the ministry. So seldom was the removal of a pastor in former days, and his re-settlement, that an eminent lawyer was accustomed, then to say, "he would as soon marry a woman who had been divorced from her husband, as vote to settle a minister who had been dismissed from his first charge." The present unsettled state of parochial affairs, seems to have originated in this wise. Some leading ministers thought they needed a great man

in a particular place. Hence, they went to any parish, where, in their estimation, the field was smaller, or of less importance, and said to the "feebler folk," (no matter how well united they were in their pastor, or how ardently attached to him,) "you must give up your minister. He must go to yonder high place of Zion," and to *him*, also, they said, "go, and he went." The "little flock" remonstrated, but always had to yield. The weight of influence from the "great," sometimes conjoined, (as was natural) with a desire in the candidate for a larger field, preponderated, and the lesser "flock" was left like "sheep without a shepherd." They sometimes hinted that metropolitan power was waxing too strong, mourned the loss of their good pastor, which the influence of the bishops, and the richer parish had removed from them, and submitted "according to the grace given unto them."

But "the end was not yet." The people soon found, (to use a trite phrase,) that "this was a game that two could play at, as well as one"—to wit: if their minister could be taken away by others, or take himself away, against their wishes, *they* could send him away if they pleased, against *his*, even when combined with *those* of his peers.

The breaking up of the pastoral relation, having been thus commenced, by the clergy, and the people, having become like the priests, (in this matter, at least,) the work went on, until removals become so general that *permanency* in the pastoral office became the *exception*, *change* the rule. Indeed, change in the ministry became so rife, that in many cases, the parish settled their minister *on wheels*, with a *proviso* in the contract, that he might or *should* go, on "six months notice" of either party," *nolens volens*, the other.

Nor was it found that our ecclesiastical polity presented any barrier to such removals. "Councils were only advisory, called to sanction what the parties had done." Thus, they either really became a dead letter, or acted a mere *farce*, and their *results* read as follows—"This council, after prayer and mature reflection, sincerely regret that things are so in this church and society, that the dissolution of the pastoral relation between the Rev. A. B., and the church in——has become necessary, and we are of the opinion that it ought to be, and it *is* hereby dissolved. We hereby, recommend the Rev. A. B., to the fellowship of the churches, wherever he may be called 'to sojourn,' as a pious, devoted and accredited min-

* Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

ister of the Gospel; and this bereaved people to the Great Head of the church, praying that he will soon send them a faithful shepherd to 'watch over and break to them the bread of life.'"

In many parishes this scene has been acted over almost every year; certainly, every five years, for the last twenty. Any wicked man "of wealth and standing," in most of our country parishes, by the influence which money and family friends give him, can accomplish the removal of the faithful pastor, simply by withholding his pecuniary aid, and raising a hue and cry against him, either with, or without cause.

Such a deplorable state of things must not only destroy ministerial influence, but also affect ministerial health.

Indeed, if *preaching the gospel* is the great work of the ministry, it becomes an important question, how often, and when, should a pastor be removed from his appropriate duty, to take "the oversight" of a college, seminary, or school? Judging from appearances, it would seem that, every board of trustees, of these institutions, from the highest to the lowest, conjointly with the bishops, or professors already there, feel, that they have a perfect right to pounce upon any pastor, especially any one who is popular, beloved, and doing good service in the "vineyard," or among "the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made him overseer," and transfer him to their service.

We should like to know "by what authority they do these things, and who gave them this authority?"

It is seriously doubted whether any such course is authorized, either by Christ or his apostles, or can find any precedent, or support from the New Testament.

We have only one other point to glance at, in this number, in which the clergyman's temper, patience and longsuffering, are often tested, and, consequently, his health affected.

No greater insult can be offered to the minister, by a hearer, than to go to sleep while the gospel is being preached to him; and, scarcely any conduct can desecrate the sanctuary more than to make it a *dormitory*. No healthy person can be excused for sleeping in church. If an Apostle rebuked those who abused "the Supper," by language like this, "What! have ye not *houses* to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not?" may it not be said to those who come to church to sleep,

What! have ye not *beds to sleep* in at home, that ye came here to slumber? Who ever knew a man *sleep* at a *political* meeting?

• It must affect any minister to see his hearers asleep. It is recorded of Dr. Young, the author of the "Night Thoughts," that, "having failed, on one occasion, to get the attention of his hearers, and seeing some of them asleep, he stopped preaching, sat back in the pulpit, and burst into a flood of tears." Such an effect, from such a cause, should be expected in a faithful, devoted, but nervous man.

It has been said of one of the most eminent clergymen of the nineteenth century, that nothing so seriously disturbed his temper, or affected his health, as the sleepiness, or irreverence of his hearers. This man possessed one of the warmest hearts, and quickest intellects, and most sensitive nerves that ever fell to the lot of man. He could almost make the breezes of heaven fan his hearers, and the songs of the redeemed break in melody upon their ears; or, so vividly describe the lost, as to make them see the gaping pit; witness the lurid fires; and hear their wailings. Yet, he could not endure a *sleepy* hearer.

But this part of our subject must not be left, without seeing whether ministers, themselves, are not, sometimes, accessory to the drowsiness of their hearers. Still, if this shall be made to appear, it is not a sufficient excuse to justify such an insult, both to the preacher and to his Master, as sleeping in church. But it is feared that clergymen do become, in a degree, aids to sleepy hearers in the two following ways. First, by getting into the habit of speaking in a kind of *sing-song*, affected, and pious *tone*. A medical writer, in a recent article in "The Medical World," assigns this, as the cause of so many persons going to sleep, in church; and argues the justness of his supposition, by stating it as a fact, that, when such a *sing-song* pastor *exchanges* with some brother, the peculiar *phase*, or tone of speaking is changed, and these sleepy hearers keep awake.

It is quite probable that the above is as really the cause of sleeping with many, as the following, which we have heard assigned. "A clergyman who had a deacon that always slept, when he preached at home, and kept awake when a stranger preached, asked him how this happened?" The deacon replied, "Why, when you are at home, you understand all our matters, and I know every thing will go on right. But, when we have a stranger, he needs watching."

The other cause, which may make sleepy

hearers is, ministers make *too fine sermons*,—they are so nice that common people do not understand them, consequently, they lose the ideas, the *thread* of the discourse, and go to sleep. But, as words have influence just in proportion to the *height* of the place from which they come, I will let the *Rev. President Wayland* and others tell the rest of this story.

“The vice of preaching at present, in most of our pulpits, is that we do not aim correctly. We strive to please the few, and not the many; and the result is that the conscience of both parties is unmoved. The pulpit is dying of the proprieties. We dare not introduce an anecdote into a sermon. We shrink from an illustration unless we can count it classical. We are averse even to the delineation of character, lest we should detract from the dignity of the pulpit. When a man is afraid of losing his dignity by attending to his own business, we generally think he has very little to lose. We fear that the pulpit is liable to create a similar impression. Look at the highest example of preachers. How simple is the teaching of Christ, how perfectly adapted to the audience by which he was surrounded. How it abounds in illustrations, parables, and even every-day proverbs, so that the common people heard him gladly. Paul tells us himself how he preached in Corinth, and Ephesus, and he is surely a good model for a cultivated man. Look at Bunyan, one of the most eloquent and effective preachers of his time,—how plain, how simple, how earnest, and yet how full of incident and illustration were his discourses. Observe President Davies,—how plain, forcible, earnest, and direct were his discourses. We sacrifice vivacity and interest to a vague pedantic notion of what is *proper* for the pulpit, as though a preacher of the Gospel were lecturing to a class on the proprieties of rhetoric. Is it not time that a change came over us, and that a preacher aimed more at interesting and converting men, and less at the reputation of refinement of style, and exquisiteness of propriety? A minister once said that a sermon without a fault would spoil a revival. Are not such sermons the reason why revivals are so rare among us?”

Paul says, “I used great plainness of speech.” Archbishop Usher says, “It requires all our learning to make truth simple.”

It is believed that the crowning excellency of the preaching of the late Dr. Nettleton, and the prime cause of his great success, was the simplicity of language which he used. A child could comprehend every word.

FÆCAL FISTULA, THE RESULT OF STRANGULATED FEMORAL HERNIA.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I send to you, for publication, an abstract of a case of Fæcal Fistula, or, as it is sometimes called, preternatural anus, with the intention rather to record the fact and circumstances of a cure, than to call attention to the mode of treatment; in which I suppose there is nothing suggestive of novelty, in principle or practice.

Respectfully yours,

J. S. JONES,

1 Bowdoin street.

Dec. 3, 1856.

CASE — PREVIOUS HISTORY.

In 1844, J. R. B., a young man, discovered a hernia on the right side. About a year after he wore a truss for a short time; not fitting well, it was put aside. Without support, the tumor was occasionally troublesome, hard, painful, and with difficulty returned. In 1848, Dr. Phelps applied his Spiral Spring Truss; this was worn with comfort until the early part of the year 1852—it was then useless from wear. Being in California he could not obtain a similar truss, or any other instrument adapted to the condition of the hernia, at the time, and was compelled to do without.

On the 5th of September, 1853, at work as usual, driving on a cart, in the morning, he jumped off, and experienced immediately a sensation as if something had broken near to the hernia. He continued at work about two hours. The tumor enlarged, was painful, and irreducible by himself.

A surgeon, with the reputation of being “the best in Sonora, California,” was soon in attendance. All attempts at reduction during the day were unsuccessful; the usual means and appliances having all failed.

In the evening, the surgeon made preparations for operation, but for reasons not known to the patient, no operation was attempted. The following day the indications were so unfavorable that the surgeon declined to operate. All the distressing symptoms of an incarcerated hernia were present, increasing in severity from day to day. Palliatives only were resorted to; from sixteen to twenty injections daily produced no action upon the bowels, the urinary organs acting regularly all the time.

On the fourteenth day, “an injection (to use the language of the patient, an intelligent and courageous man,) appeared to turn some of

the guts, near the navel, and directly after there was a discharge from the bowels which relieved him very much."

The hernial tumor burst on the eighteenth day from the incarceration, discharging, as was supposed, a pint of matter, very offensive; portions of it appeared to be "pus, yellow and very thick." Vomitings continued daily, mitigated by the discharges from the hernial abscess. A few days after the opening a slough appeared; this hung out at the aperture for ten days, gradually loosening; at the end of this time it was removed by the patient, who supposed it to be "a piece of the gut." "It was three inches in length, about three-fourths of an inch in width, running to a point at each end." Partial discharges from the rectum occurred once in two or three days, during the following six weeks, — faecal matter constantly escaping from the hernial aperture. The patient estimated about three-fourths of all his food escaped through the abnormal channel.

At one time, there were five openings from the suppurating cavities; during the last week of December, the original opening healed up, and the largest amount of faecal matter, undigested food, bile, mucus, and other fluids, escaped from a new opening, which had given passage for months to similar discharges, and was the only outlet for a long time.

He suffered much from constipation, pain in the hip-joint, and lameness. Anxious to return to Boston, he in March undertook the journey home: the opening had partially closed. He rode thirty miles in one day, and was confined to bed for three days after. Free discharges of faecal matter, constipation, and all the previous symptoms, returned.

The bowels usually inactive, and on some occasions intervals of thirteen or fourteen days elapsed between dejections, which were procured by glysters.

He arrived in Boston in May, 1854.

In June, 1854, I first saw the case, the patient desiring an operation for cure. Appearances were unpromising. The integument of the anterior portion of the upper third of the thigh was swollen, indurated, red, tender; muscles stiffened; the leg and thigh semi-flexed, with but little motion; parallel to the line of Poupart's ligament was thrown up a considerable ridge of condensed tissue, which upon the pubis seemed to be attached to the bone. Below this ridge, near the usual place of appearance of crural hernia, the orifice of the fistula presented sufficiently large to admit the end of the finger, to the depth of half an

inch; a kind of ring, banded the passage, through which probes passed two inches perpendicularly, through the pit. Curved instruments, sounds, bougies, &c., of various sizes, penetrated the intestine, the curved extremities of which indicating their whereabouts by raising the walls of the abdomen. At some distance from the orifice of the fistula, a cicatrix marks the original pointing of the hernial abscess. Above this, there appears to have been a loss of substance in the tendons of the oblique muscles, or parts beneath; a pouch is here formed, into which the intestines descend, and are readily returned; pressure at this place controls, in a great degree, the escape of the stercoraceous fluids from the orifice of the fistula, which is otherwise constant, excoriating the skin over which it passes, and filling the apartment with the odor peculiar to discharges of this kind.

There has been, without doubt, extensive suppuration under the fascia lata, with sloughings. New and obscure connections have been formed — sinuses exist, which close and re-open. The actual condition of the perforated intestine cannot be ascertained. On Monday, July 8, the patient swallowed a cherry-stone. This caused obstruction somewhere, producing violent vomitings, and other symptoms of strangulation. On Friday, 12th, the cherry-stone escaped at the orifice, and the symptoms suddenly disappeared. Pieces of egg, boiled, usually arrived at the outlet in about ten minutes from the time of swallowing. With them, the fluids became unusually acrid and bilious. Other substances (solids) would appear at the outlet in the same manner, undigested; the only thing noticeable was the time varying. After six months' suffering at home, from this loathsome malady, the patient urged an operation for cure.

Dr. Winslow Lewis, Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, and other surgeons, had examined the case. No great encouragement of cure by operation was given; still the patient insisted upon a trial.

An attempt at dilatation was thought advisable as a preliminary step; the particular mode of after-procedure had not been decided upon.

Sponge tents were introduced into the opening; this process stopped, in a degree, the discharges, but reproduced the vomitings, colicky pains, and other distressing symptoms: the practice was abandoned. New abscesses formed; severe pains were constant about the hip-joint; pressure upon the trochanter, spinous

process of the ilium, and upon the lower portions of the abdomen on the diseased side, increased the pain, and caused profuse discharges of pus. The bowels, during this time, were irregular; active cathartics were efficient. It was evident that the intestinal discharges escaped into sinuses, or pits, other than the large track leading to the external opening; causing the continued gathering of pus, and new and protean forms of suffering. In March, there was some improvement. The patient was clamorous for an operation. In July, 1855, finding him in a comparatively favorable condition, I gave him the chance of some experimental manipulations.

Anatomical relation had been so much disturbed, apparently, that no very clear idea of the direction and condition of the fistula, and its connection with adjacent parts, could be given by verbal description. A large anterior portion of the upper third of the thigh seemed to be cavernous. Cord-like remains of fasciæ, or other condensed tissues, crossed the cavity in different directions, some of which could be raised upon hook-like instruments.

Successful operation seemed to depend upon dividing these cords and partitions, thus permitting the secreting surfaces within the cavity to come in contact.

The perforated part of the bowel was adherent within the abdomen: if adhesion between any tissues near this place of perforation could be accomplished, and pressure applied externally, sufficient to control the opening for a time, it seemed not unlikely that the intestinal fluids would pass along the natural channel, and the preternatural openings close up.

The operation necessarily occupied some time, and was commenced by the removal of considerable fungus which surrounded the aperture. Crucial incisions divided the integument sufficiently to make room for exploration.

From day to day, the pit was enlarged; at the depth of about an inch, the end of the finger introduced touched the sphincter-like ring, unyielding, as when first examined. This was divided, as were the cord-like bands, some, where it appeared safe to attempt it, with a small probed knife, others, by ligatures, tightened from day to day. Division of the ring was followed by marked improvement. As the hardened bands were cut off, the swelling decreased rapidly, and the discharges were more or less controllable by pressure.

In August, general compression over the whole diseased part was made; the application of effective compression was difficult in conse-

quence of the proximity of the great vessels to the fistular orifice, and also to the new hernial pouch.

The difficulties, however, were all overcome. Soft sponges, carefully adapted to the condition of the parts, retained by a well-adjusted bandage, secured the patient from any further discharge, from the preternatural opening of the bowels. The pit contracted; the external opening closed gradually. The patient has recovered the use of his limb — walks well, any distance — is daily engaged in a useful occupation — in good health — bowels regular in action; and for more than a year there has been no sign of outbreak. He still wears the bandage, as he has been unable to procure a truss which will give that support to the growing pouch, and the region of the previous hernia, which seems to be required.

There is still remaining a superficial sinus, from which escapes a fluid occasionally, of a serous character. It has not been thought of importance enough in any way to interfere with it.

J. S. J.

MEDICINE IN AUSTRIA.

A friend, in the city of Washington, has placed in our hands, for publication, the following extract from a letter, written by a young American physician, now in Austria, to his correspondent in this city. As it is not of a controversial character, though the preferences of the writer are distinctly marked, and contains points of interest to the medical faculty as a whole, we gratify our friend by inserting it.

After fourteen months' residence in Vienna in the diligent pursuit of medical science, the doctor submits to his examination and receives his diploma from the most celebrated and ancient university in the Austrian Empire. He then continues thus:

"As regards Homœopathy in Vienna, it is in as favorable a condition as one could wish for. The hospitals here are well arranged, always presenting cases of much interest, and maladies by no means of a slight nature. I have had an opportunity here of not only seeing every variety of disease treated homœopathically, but I might almost add that I have seen the most grave diseases in the great general hospital treated *dietetically*. The world-renowned Professor Skoda, although not believing in Homœopathy, does not believe in Allopathy; and, although he gives medicines in some cases of

disease, they are always confined to two or three medicaments, viz: chiva or quinine in febris intermittents, opium to still pain, and mercury as a specificum for syphilis. In pneumonia, typhus, &c., he trusts to nature, or prescribes, perhaps, as a remedy, an inert medicament, pro forma, as he often says himself. In his clinic, therefore, I have seen the most grave diseases taking their natural course without any interference.

"The other professor of the medical clinic, however, is not of the same practice as Skoda, although in the same university. He gives Allopathic remedies in some cases, and sometimes Homœopathic remedies, where experience has taught him their success. In other instances he allows nature to effect the cure.

"I refer now to the celebrated Professor Oppolzen, who attended Prince Paskiewitch, the Viceroy of Poland, who died in March last. The Emperor of Russia sent for Professor Oppolzen, at the request of his faithful Viceroy.

"Some six years since, a physician of Vienna, Prof. Dr. Diettel (now of Cracow), made some experiments in the treatment of pneumonia, by blood-letting, by tartar emetic, and by the expectant method, or by diet alone. The results which he arrived at were as follows, viz:

In cases where blood-letting was used	the mortality was	20.4 per cent.
Where tartar emetic was used		20.7 per cent.
Those by diet alone		7.4 per cent.

"These statistics may be relied on, as they are often quoted here. Now, to show that Homœopathy is something more than nature, the results of the treatment of pneumonia in the two Homœopathic hospitals in Vienna, and the one in the city of Linz, in Austria, when all averaged, show a mortality of only 3.37-71 per cent.

"I have seen already sufficient evidence to convince me that Homœopathy—that is, homœopathic remedies—produces better results than nature alone. Most of the graduates here attend the Homœopathic hospitals sometime after they have received their degree, before they commence practice.

"Quite recently Dr. Bednar, private docent to the Vienna University, and who conducts a clinic for children's diseases, has published a new edition of his work upon the diseases of children. In this he says that he has been forced to change his views and adopt the Homœopathic practice, by no means exclusively, but in the greater number of cases; and consequently, through the whole book, in

some diseases Homœopathy is recommended, and in others Allopathy. It professes to be the result of his experience. This work has made a decided impression through all Germany, from the fact that Dr. B. is the second highest authority upon children's diseases in Germany, and his book (the old edition) had been a standard work and acknowledged as authority.

"It is my opinion that what gives the new school of medicine so much more dignity here than with us, is that the Homœopathic hospitals are enabled to present statistical evidence of what they can do, and they are open to all physicians who are skeptical, who can never visit them without at least admiring their simplicity and their arrangements. The health of the city is unusually good; there have only been some five cases of cholera this summer (1856). One of these was sent to the Homœopathic hospital, and treated by *nicotine* alone successfully. This case I saw. Last year the disease raged epidemically, and, although the Homœopathic treatment cured more than any other, yet the mortality was frightful."

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

HEPATITIS.

BY H. G. BARROWS, M. D.

Although this term is confined, by medical writers to one meaning, viz., "inflammation of the liver," yet, for convenience, I propose to offer all I have to say in regard to the liver, under this caption, without regard to its appropriateness.

In the books, and in lectures, it is customary to distinguish between the acute and chronic inflammation; to distinguish an affection of the *concave* surface of the liver, by certain peculiar symptoms, all which is very proper, and very useful to the student. Equally useful, and, perhaps, important, is it, to set forth the peculiarities which distinguish Hepatitis from Pneumonia, and from Gastritis and Enteritis; to set forth the favorable days, and the unfavorable symptoms. This all reads well in books, and sounds well in lectures; these details will *kill time*, if the *modus medendi* recommended does not kill the patient. But after all is said, a dozen cases of experimental acquaintance with the disease in question, are worth all that may be said in a library of books. If physicians were to trust more to judgment and their experience, and less to books, there would be fewer victims immolated upon the altar of experiment. We have many *book*

doctors, and many more of the class known as *symptom* doctors.

A correct *diagnosis* lies at the foundation of all successful practice; and if a disease is correctly diagnosed, the practitioner has everything in his favor, and if his judiciously-applied remedies fail him, he cannot stand exposed to the charge of having *doctored* ignorantly.

But I am wandering too far, perhaps, from the starting point. Affections of the liver, and diseases resulting from a derangement of the functions of that organ, form a very large proportion of the maladies which the physician is called upon to treat: and any light, the result of experience, which can be thrown upon a subject, admitted, on all hands, to be complicated, is so much contributed to the general fund of medical information.

I doubt not physicians have, in their practice, met with cases similar to the one which I shall now describe. The patient (of either sex,) thin and emaciated; eating with a tolerable appetite, yet receiving no benefit from their food; eyes prominent and brilliant; nose nipped in; a troublesome cough, particularly at night; night sweats; difficulty of breathing; lassitude and general debility. I have had patients who were affected in the manner described, and who have been told that they were in a consumption — and they believed it. I thought otherwise, and applied remedies accordingly. I know that most of the symptoms above described are present in Phthisis Pulmonalis, which is the reason that the patient or his friends will early give up, and despair of help. The case described is not consumption, however, and is very often within the reach of curative agents. In a case, such as I have described, I have always found one peculiarity to exist, which may be worth mentioning. By placing your patient in an erect, standing posture, by which I mean that he is to stand very straight, for in this disease, there is an inclination to stoop, the practitioner will find, on standing *behind* his patient, that one shoulder is *lower* than the other; this peculiarity I have *always* found to exist, and it determines my mind in making my diagnosis. The night sweats may be ultimately checked by the nightly use of alum water applied to the surface of the body by means of a sponge, and the coldness of the feet, so commonly complained of, remedied by immersing the feet and legs, to the knees, in warm water containing a liberal supply of mustard. The cough needs but soothing remedies, as this will subside as you gain power over the disease. The region of

the liver should be bathed daily with cold water; added to the foregoing treatment, the use of the following pill will be found efficacious in almost all difficulties of the liver, even when at that stage where it shall present the symptoms above set forth.

R	Pulv. gum guaiac.	3ss
	Pulv. podophylli.	3i
	Pulv. rhei. opt.	gr. x
	Ext. taraxaci.	3ii
	Ext. juglandis.	3iss
	Syr. rham. cath.	qs

M. Ft. pil. no. 60.

The experienced practitioner will readily see from this combination of agents, what he may reasonably expect. The obstinate constipation which is so prevalent in this disease will be gradually overcome, and the natural alvine discharges will be restored. The remedy acting alteratively, the result will be (if the case is within the reach of any remedial agents,) strength where there was debility; a natural, instead of a morbid appetite; a gradual suppression of the cough, which, in these cases, is usually found to be sympathetic. These are some of the favorable results which will follow, and so much confidence have I in this mode of treating this difficulty, that I can recommend it to my brethren in the profession as, at least, worthy of a trial.

The pills are to be given, two daily, either at night or in the morning, to be increased or diminished, as the alvine discharges may indicate.

Boston, Dec. 8, 1856.

TRANSFUSION OF BLOOD.

The *Gazette des Hospitaux* gives the following curious details:—

“A young woman of twenty having reached the full period of pregnancy untroubled by any particular accident, was taken simultaneously on the morning of the 13th December, with the pains of approaching labor, and a considerable loss of blood. The occurrence of this, several times in the course of the day, so much alarmed the persons about her, that they removed her to the hospital of Saint Louis, where she was admitted under the charge of M. Nelaton.

After a forced delivery, and a hemorrhage that nothing could arrest, the patient had become cold; the circulation of blood appeared every instant on the point of stopping; the quickened pulse had ceased beating during several minutes, and nothing but an undulatory quiv-

ering was perceptible. It was under these circumstances, which seemed the precursors of imminent death, that M. Nelaton made up his mind to try the operation of the transfusion of the blood. One of the hospital assistants, M. Dupour, offered to supply the necessary blood. A vein in his arm was therefore widely opened for the purpose of obtaining rapidly the requisite quantity. This blood was received into a basin kept at a temperature of about thirty-five centigrade degrees (95 Fahrenheit), and transferred without loss of time to a hydrocele syringe similarly warmed.

In the meantime, M. Nelaton discovered by a light incision the median cephalic vein, which was dissected, and raised with a loop of thread. Then taking hold, with pincers, of the superficial coat of the vein above the loop which held it up, the operator, provided with scissors, divided obliquely the vessel in the half only of its circumference, so as to form a small opening in the form of a V, the upper part of which was directed to the outer extremity of the vessel.

Matters being thus arranged, the assistant who had received the blood cleared away, with the greatest care, the globules of air and froth which the syringe contained, and inserted its tube underneath the small valve of the venous coat, which being raised up by the pincers formed a sort of funnel for its reception. As the tube was conical in shape, it was sufficient to insert it so deeply into the vein that the coat lapped exactly over its surface, and presented the reflux of the injected liquid.

The piston then being gently pressed, the whole contents of the syringe, that is to say, about two hundred grammes (a gramme is 15 gr.) of blood, were made to penetrate into the venous system. At the expiration of five minutes, a new injection, similar to the former, was made, transferring to the vein nearly one hundred and fifty grammes. The little wound on the arm was soon closed, by means of a bandage.

During the course of this operation, no particular phenomenon was manifested. The patient, who was, moreover, in a state of absolute insensibility, exhibited no sensation. Her pulse, however, felt from time to time, appeared after a quarter of an hour to be a little more firm, a little less quick; at the same time, the patient made it understood by signs that her respiration was rather less difficult. On Friday, the 20th of December, a week after the operation, her condition was such that hopes of a favorable result are still entertained."

This operation has excited much public attention. Nevertheless, the curiosity which it has awakened bears no comparison with that produced everywhere by the first attempts at its performance. There was then an infatuation and excitement on the subject, of which but a feeble idea can now be formed.

Suggested in 1658 to Robert Boyle, a celebrated English anatomist, by Dr. Christopher Wren, Professor of Astronomy at Saville College, Oxford, the transfusion was first tried by certain French and English surgeons, upon animals of the same or of different species; the favorable results which ensued led to its being tried on men. It was in France that this bold attempt took place for the first time. In 1667, Jean Dennis, assisted by a surgeon named Emmerey, infused the blood of an animal into a man's body; and shortly afterwards Claude Tardy, who was at the head of the faculty of medicine in Paris, did the same from one man to another. These early efforts were crowned with such entire success, that they brought about the frequent practice of this operation, always a difficult one, and always dangerous unless due precautions are taken, and the requisite arrangements made for ensuring its success. It was thus that it was adopted at Paris, with Baron Bourd, son of the Swedish minister, who was given up by his medical attendants, and in whose intestines mortification had already commenced. In this case, death rapidly ensued. The Chatelet of Paris then thought it a duty to interfere and by decree of the 17th of April, 1668, forbid the practice of this operation, unless with the sanction of the Faculty, which was not very easily obtained. Thus, after enjoying a repute but little merited, this transfusion fell into neglect equally blameable: the prejudices of the many, and the timidity of the few, soon told against it, and at last the wit of Pensault gave it the finishing stroke. "It would be rather too droll," said he, "that a fellow could change his blood as he changes his shirt."

We have to announce that the young woman, above mentioned, died—not from the result of the operation, but from a violent inflammation of the abdomen.

Capacity of the Stomach.—A man named John Andrews, of Petersburg, Va., made a wager of twenty-five cents that he would eat two pounds of beef steak, half a shoat, and one pound of tallow candles. He "worried" the whole down, and "wet it with two quarts of ale."

EXTRACTION OF CATARACT

At a Single Stroke. By M. Chassaignac. (Montieur des Hopitaux, No. 74.)

M. Chassaignac observes that several oculists, and especially Wenzel, have extracted cataracts at a single stroke; opening the capsule as the knife traversed the anterior chamber on its way out. This procedure, which has hitherto been justly considered as an exhibition of a somewhat dangerous dexterity, may be very well accomplished by the aid of chloroform. It offers, indeed, great advantages; for, whatever may be the dilatation at the moment of commencing the operation, it contracts immediately after the escape of the aqueous humor, and the knife introduced subsequently, may easily wound the iris. In this operation, the pupil remaining wide open, the accident is not to be feared. In other respects, however, Wenzel's operation was really dangerous, and presented difficulties well-nigh insurmountable without the aid of chloroform.

M. Chassaignac habitually employs chloroform in his operations for cataract, and the advantages he has derived from it he thinks are due to the observance of the proper principles that should regulate its employment. No patient can be operated upon with security if he has not been brought to the stage of tolerance, that he sleeps deeply and placidly, without irregular movements, restlessness, cries, or delirium. His respiration is normal, his *facies* excellent, his pulse large and full—presenting, in a word, an assemblage of conditions not only well suited to tranquillize the surgeon, but also eminently fitted to facilitate the execution of the operation. Vastly different is it to operate upon an eye rendered quite immovable, and to act upon one essentially mobile, and incessantly seeking to escape from the action of the instruments. Among the accidents thus avoided, is wounding the hyaloid membrane. It is, in fact, almost always to this accident, and not to the pressure exerted upon the globe of the eye, that is due the escape of more or less of the vitreous humor after cataract operations. This almost inevitable accident, when operating without chloroform, is easily avoided in the immovable state of the eye. The same may be said of wounds of the iris, and most of the accidents consequent on extraction. The possibility of producing vomiting has been urged as an objection to the use of chloroform in this operation, but, by waiting before commencing the operation until the period of tolerance has been reached, M. Chassaignac has never met with vomiting or struggling.

FLOATING FACTS.

The Human Face. Dr. Dewey, in one of his lectures on the Problem of Human Destiny, remarks: "The expression of the face is a beautiful distinction of humanity. We are little aware of the influence which it constantly exerts. If the dumb animal, on whom man exercises his cruelty, if the horse or dog, when suffering by a blow from the violence of man, could turn upon him with a look of indignation or appeal, could any one resist the power of the mute expostulation? How extraordinary, too, the difference of expression in the human face, by which the recognition of personal identity is secured! On this small surface, nine inches by six, are depicted such various traits, that, among the millions of inhabitants on the earth, no two have the same lineaments of the face. What dire confusion would ensue if all countenances were alike: if fathers did not know their own children by sight, nor husbands their wives! But now we could pick out friends from among the multitudes of the assembled universe."

Selling Poisons.—No person can purchase any of the known poisons in Germany, without a certificate from a physician. This identical regulation has been sought for in Massachusetts, but the legislature refused to act upon it some few years ago. The subject was referred some weeks since.

To prevent the possibility of a mistake, all the arsenic retailed for rat poison is required to be mixed with lamp-black and tallow. It is only in this country that people are permitted to purchase at pleasure any of the poisons known to chemistry. The annals of crime, from this unrestrained source of wickedness, demand some specific laws to meet the emergency.

A New Metal.—Dr. Hoffman, following in the wake of Davy and Deville, has come forward as a discoverer of metal. In a lecture delivered by him lately at the British Royal Institution, he exhibited a bright glistening mass,—something resembling butter,—and described it as ammonium, the metallic base of ammonia. This is regarded as a highly interesting chemical fact, inasmuch as it strengthens the views entertained respecting the constituents of the atmosphere—namely, that they are all metallic.

Patriarchs.—John Slade, of Pittsfield, Mass., whose age is sixty-four, visited his father in New Hampshire on the 18th ult. On the 25th of October, his father was 100 years old; his oldest brother died at 92, another at 93, and he has another now living aged 95.

Mrs. Hannah Cleveland, of Skaneateles, N. Y., celebrated her hundredth birthday, and fifty-two of her descendants, representing four generations, met at the house of her son in honor of the event. Religious services were conducted by the venerable Father Parsons, of Marcellus, N. Y., nephew, and Rev. Edward Clark, of Massachusetts, grandson, of the aged lady. The seven surviving (out of thirteen) children were present; making, with thirty-nine grandchildren and thirty-five great grandchildren, a total number of eighty-one living descendants. Mrs. C. was born in Northampton, Mass., the daughter of Jacob Parsons; the old house in Bridge street still stands, and is occupied by a descendant bearing the same name. In 1781, she married Dea. Nehemiah Cleveland, and removed to Williamsburg, where her numerous family were all born; 1817, she being then 61 years old, the family removed to Skaneateles, and began on a new farm.

Died in Dooley county, Georgia, 11th ultimo, Mr. Joseph Calhoun, at the advanced age of 100 years and 10 months. Mr. C. was a native of Edgecomb county, N. C., and was born on the 10th day of January, 1756. He was a soldier in the continental army, and received a severe wound at the battle of Brandywine. He was under the command of Gen. Gates at the battle of Camden, and fought under Gen. Greene at Guilford C. H. He was in the continental ranks at the siege of Yorktown, and saw Lord Cornwallis surrender his sword to the victorious Americans. He moved to Georgia in 1792. He was a man of powerful muscular frame, and retained the vigor and strength of his mind up to his death.

Age and Health.—Mrs. Clarissa Williams, of Oxford, Quaker Farms district, Conway, now in her 99th year, spins a run of yarn a day, and sews without the aid of glasses. She never was sick a day in her life, and has probably never been thirty miles from home. Industry has been a prominent feature in her life.

Hospital Funds.—A Catholic fair was recently held in New York for the purpose of raising money for sustaining St. Vincent's hospital, in Eleventh street, which produced \$33,000.

New Antidote for Opium.—At Little Falls, N. J., Thomas Stanly attempted suicide with laudanum. He was in a cathartic condition when discovered. A physician was called who decided that the only means of restoring animation was to give the subject a severe beating, which was done by two men with heavy switches for a quarter of an hour, when signs of returning animation were shown, and the patient sat up. A glass of brandy was then given him, when he fell to sleep, and the beating process was resumed until he was fully restored to consciousness. He is now comparatively well, except some suffering from his bruises, received from the extraordinary "course of sprouts" to which he was subjected.

Delicate Perfumery.—Immerse any of the odoriferous flowers in olive oil, in a close jar, for about thirty hours, and the mass becomes thoroughly charged with the perfume. Then pour in an equal quantity of spirit, and occasionally, from day to day, shake the mass thoroughly. Lastly, when sufficiently charged with the volatile aroma, strain and decant into phials.

Probably very much of the otto of roses imported from Damascus and Smyrna is prepared in this manner. We purchased at a dear rate, a single ounce of what an Arab apothecary, in the Bazar of Damascus declared, by the beard of the Prophet, to be the genuine oil of roses—which proved, on subsequent examination, to be nothing but olive oil perfumed.

Concentrated Tea.—A paragraph has been travelling the rounds till it has become an antiquity, that a dentist, Dr. John Burdell, of New York, boiled down a pound of young hyson, from a quart to a pint,—when ten drops killed a rabbit. Boiled to a gill, eight drops killed a cat in a few minutes. So would catnip, sage, mint, and half a dozen other harmless articles prepared in the same way. The experiment is no more a proof of the poisonous properties of tea, than that peaches are destructive to life because they contain prussic acid—which, concentrated, is one of the most deadly of poisons, but the most harmless and agreeable of flavors, as diluted by nature in that delicious fruit.

Warming by Gas.—Ingenious and scientific men are occupied in trying to discover the means of warming houses by gas. That this will eventually be accomplished there can be little doubt; and it will be an immense relief from dust and labor and inconvenience.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Scarlet Fever is quite prevalent among small children, in Boston. A few adults have suffered from it severely. Thirty children were reported sick with the disease at the Orphan Asylum, on Washington Street, last week. In Cambridge, an adjoining city, orders have been issued by the School Committee, that, for the better safety of those attending school, the children of those families in which the disease has appeared must not be allowed to attend school until all danger is past.

A pleasant meeting of the medical gentlemen of the city was held at the Tremont House on Saturday evening last, on invitation of the faculty of the medical department of Harvard College. Why cannot the agreeable social meetings that were formerly held by the physicians of the city at each other's houses be renewed?

What is the secret of so much ophthalmic surgery being drawn from Boston to New York? Patients will certainly find themselves in as skilful hands here as in past times. The assertion that high charges drive patients to other cities needs confirmation.

In answer to a correspondent who wishes to know whether the method of treating scarlet fever is considered successful, he is referred to the bills of mortality.

At the last meeting of the Suffolk District Medical Society, a proposition was submitted, that refreshments should be had at the close of each session. That policy will insure full meetings, when the appetite for science is wholly vitiated. The Royal Society always have tea and its accompaniments served, when business is over, at Somerset House. Without the supper, a quorum could not be persuaded to be present. Pass the order for a monthly supper, however meagre it may be, and an ardent love for medical investigations will assume astonishing activity. We are advocates for the sandwiches. Any thing to induce the medical gentlemen of the city to become acquainted with each other.

The communication from Cincinnati, and another from New Haven, with an account of the Medical Schools in both places, embracing a description of the manner of the several professors in their lecture rooms, is better calculated for the diary of a traveller than for this publication. No one is to blame for not

being a beauty; nor is a sensible man to be condemned because his elocution does not compare favorably with the best forensic displays out of the medical profession.

Such is the demand for horse flesh in France, and particularly in Paris, to prevent the sale of that from animals dying of disease, it has been recommended to the municipal government to organize a special market for horse meat. It is the only way in which abuses in regard to that kind of food can be controlled. Evidence in abundance, from medical men of the highest social and professional standing, has been furnished to the public authorities, in favor of legalizing the sale of it for human food, it being both well-flavored, wholesome and nutritious. Let a pound of horse meat be sold in a Boston or New York market, and the people would be horrified, and humanity outraged.

A Dr. Snodgrass, lately arrested at Massillon, Ohio, on the charge of killing his wife, was subsequently found dead in jail.

Dr. Augustus Mitchell, of Portland, Me., has removed to Jacksonville, East Florida, for the express purpose of giving his attention to the treatment of pulmonary diseases. Invalids from the North, who visit the South to avoid the fitful climate of New England, will find many advantages to be derived from the bland and vitalising air of East Florida. Dr. Mitchell has long had this removal in view, from a conviction that it is the most promising regions for consumptive patients to visit, and a field in which he can render essential professional service to his fellow-men.

Dr. Bryan's Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Journal, now in its fifth volume, has lost nothing of its business-like character, being promptly published, at beginning of each month—at only one dollar and fifty cents a year, when paid in advance. A leading paper in No. 6. of the present volume, is made up of selections from favorite prescriptions of living American practitioners, by Horace Green, M. D., which we copy in full.

A famine is apprehended in Liberia, owing to the failure of the crops. Many natives of the interior have died of starvation. Drs. Snowden and Lang, of Boston, are now in the service of the Liberian Government from whom reliable information may be expected.

Dr. Dickson, Member of Congress, from the Albany district in New York, is unable at present to take his seat on account of sickness.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 17, 1856.

DR. WOOD'S ADDRESS.—On the sixth of May, when the American Association commenced its session at Detroit, Michigan, George B. Wood, M. D., then President, delivered an address, since published by order of the Association. It may have been before the medical public for months. If so, however, we have been unfortunate in not having earlier received a copy, since it is a pleasure to read whatever emanates from the author.

While turning over the leaves, page after page, before the regular business of reading was commenced, the medico-literary labors of that gentleman became the subject of thought. His industry has been intense. For thirty years, at least, Dr. Wood has been before the medical profession of the United States in the character of a successful teacher in the university of Pennsylvania, and an author of distinction, who has commanded the respect and confidence of those for whom his writings were specifically designed.

It is a difficult undertaking to have the prominency of Dr. Wood, and pass thus far on the eventful journey of life with so little social friction from the envious, the fault-finding, and those unprincipled appendages of a learned profession whose position depends on their success in destroying the influence of their superiors.

There is no smothering the mortifying fact that has disgraced the local history of medicine, and sometimes tarnished the biographical splendor that would have belonged to the characters of individuals, had it not have been for an unfortunate habit of supposing it necessary to undervalue or destroy the prospects of a rising star in the firmament, that their own feeble light might be taken for the sun.

Dr. Wood has been a favored man. His path has not been crossed. No harsh epithets have dropped from the point of a reviewer's pen. An amiability, a candor, which belongs to the gentleman, seems to have kept the carrion dogs of mischief-making propensity at bay, and he will transmit a name to posterity, in the annals of American Medical Science, respected as a man of cultivated powers, and honored as authority in the department to which an essential part of an industrious life has been devoted.

But these reflections must not divert us from a consideration of the address.

It is a clear-sighted analysis of the past doings of the Association, with an equally correct view of what it might and should achieve, and nothing appears to have impressed Dr. Wood more favorably than this,—“a great benefit conferred on the profession by the Association was the preparation and adoption of a code of ethics.”

Again, he speaks with decided approbation of these gatherings of the physicians—not from the ends of the earth, but from the states and territories of this mag-

nificent country. The good that flows from a fountain so pure, where character and science are the two pinions on which the whole organization revolves, is properly estimated.

On the tessellated floor of the temple of *Æsculapius*, the doctor steps lightly, in speaking of the two opposing schools of modern practice, viz: the homœopathics and their antipodes, the allopathics. No matter where anything comes from if it is really good, according to Dr. Wood's principles of argument. That is genuine eclectic doctrine, and will be received with admiration and eclat by some of the bold medical logicians of Ohio. Hear his words:

“The regular practice of medicine is based on no such dogmas, and no exclusive dogma whatever. We profess to be intelligent men, who seek knowledge in reference to the cure of diseases, wherever we can find it, and in our search are bound by no other limits than those of truth and honor. We should not hesitate to receive it from the homœopaths, had they any to offer. We would pick it up from the filthiest common sewer of quackery; for, like the diamond, it has this excellent quality, that no surrounding filth defiles it, and it comes out pure and sparkling, even from the kennel.”

If as much of the address were republished in these columns as our taste for fine writing would urge, it might be trenching farther on the rights of the Association than would be justifiable; therefore we leave it with reluctance, hoping that medical scholars who pretend they are at heart and soul devoted to the diffusion of the true principles of legitimate medicine, may have an unbroken literary feast over the bountiful table spread for them by Dr. Wood.

PROFESSIONAL STUPIDITY.—The art of keeping still and saying nothing is the true secret of the success of scores of medical blockheads. A bland, cordial, cheerful temperament in a physician, operates disadvantageously just where it should call out those qualities in others. As the owl passed for a bird of wisdom, so stupidity passes in the society of superficial people, as a sign of superior intelligence. A faithful history of the medical profession would illustrate this proposition—that the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong, or bread to the wise.

DISEASES OF THE THROAT.—Since the discovery of a new and successful treatment by Dr. Green, of New York, a multitude of practitioners have established the value of that gentleman's method. It is an extraordinary circumstance, and worthy of further investigation, notwithstanding its staleness, what has produced the amazing amount of throat ail. For a long while it seemed to be confined to clergymen, and was supposed to have been produced by excessive use of the vocal organs. It is now no respecter of persons, but as frequently as otherwise, seizes upon the bronchial apparatus of persons who are very saving of their words.

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.—Some poetaster of antiquity declares "that birds of a feather like to flock together." How perfectly the truth of this homely rhyme is verified in the annual meetings of persons in this country and Europe, for mutual improvement and the interchange of civilities!

First the medical practitioners; then the medical officers of lunatic asylums; the geologists; the general philosophers; and in the long procession of worthy devotees to scientific inquiries and explanations, the druggists and apothecaries, under the modest title of Pharmaceutical Association, hold their annual feasts of reason. With respect to the flow of soul, no account of transactions at dinner-tables are recorded by the secretaries, consequently all comments on the doings of learned bodies at the trencher must necessarily be imagined, and our remarks confined to the main objects contemplated by their several constitutions.

The fifth annual meeting of this well-organized society was held in Baltimore, in September. A report of the proceedings occupies a pamphlet of eighty-nine pages. John Meakim, Esq., of New York, then President, made a model opening address. Any presiding officer who has the humanity not to inflict a long stupid lecture on an audience deserves a gold medal, and the thanks of those whose opinion is worth having. Subsequently, George W. Andrews, Esq., of Baltimore, was elected President for the ensuing official year; and John L. Kidwell, of Georgetown, D. C., Frederick Stearns, Detroit, Michigan; and H. T. Kiersted, New York, Vice Presidents; and W. J. M. Gordon, of Cincinnati, Secretary.

What blood is to the animal body, money is to the body of a corporation, and the financial circumstances of the association, therefore, must always indicate the health or consumptive tendency of associations where funds are required for defraying expenses.

The receipts the past year were \$195.85,—and \$232 due from members remaining unpaid. There are one hundred and forty-one active members; three honorary; and eleven correspondents.

Passing over the minutes of the daily proceedings, which were conducted with parliamentary order, we have derived the most satisfaction from the scientific papers placed on file and now published in detail. No such researches could have been produced by second-rate minds. They are honorable memorials of the chemical acumen of the members who communicated them to the archives of the association. They would be acquisitions to any medical library.

Mr. Edward S. Wayne, of Cincinnati, on the *Action of Oil of Sassafras upon metallic vessels, particularly those where lead has been used as a solder, and an observed compound resulting from those containing lead*; and another on the *Oil of Cotton Seed*; a third on *Oil of Pig-nut Hickory*; a fourth on the *peculiar acrid principles of the nut-order Trilliacea*; and a fifth on a *new proximate principle from Sanguinaria Canadensis*,—are brilliant avant couriers of what may be antici-

pated from that prolific source before many years have sped away.

A choice article on the *Preparation of Narcotic Extracts*, by S. S. Garrigues, of Philadelphia; *Effer-vescing Powders*, by John M. Maisch, of Philadelphia; and lastly, Mr. Wayne's finishing communication on *Elixir of Opium*,—would give character to any scientific society.

There is a degree of importance attached to the workings of this fraternity which is of more consequence to the interests of practising physicians, than may be apprehended at first sight. Through the mixtures and compoundings of the apothecaries we are thought to cure or kill. Their knowledge is our personal gain, inasmuch as individual skill is rated according to our success by the great looking-on public. If the pharmacutists prepare drugs according to laws which the exactions of a rigid science demand to determine their positive properties, the practitioner of medicine is armed for a combat, and a victory over the pestilence that walketh in darkness.

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.—For the information of far-off readers, it is proper to state that this medical school, now thirty-four years of age, is located in the beautiful town of Pittsfield, Berkshire county, in the Western part of Massachusetts. Its name is derived from the county.

For a series of years, although within thirty-six miles of Albany, where there is also a medical college of good reputation, and Boston and New York are both accessible by railroad within a few hours, this institution has stood in good odor with the people, the profession, and the wide world—for it is represented at all points of compass by those who received their medical education within its portals. And wherever any of the graduates of the Berkshire have established themselves, their qualifications have always been found equal to all professional circumstances and emergencies.

The Hon. Henry H. Childs, M. D., a professor from the beginning, and still vigorous, fresh, and animated, is dean of the faculty. Report brought intelligence a while since that the school was debilitated; but the catalogue of students who have been in attendance on the late course of lectures, is the best evidence that could be produced to prove that an abundance of strength and vitality remains. That cannot be a sickly corporation which is upheld by an array of youthful forces represented in sixty-three names on the matriculating list.

By being sparing of their degrees they command respect. In 1855, only twelve were conferred upon those who had sustained themselves under a rigid examination. Two honorary doctorates were given the same year. No mention is made of graduates the present season. Probably it is the custom of the institution to announce them in some other manner. Formerly the Berkshire Medical College was a de-

partment of Williams College, at Williamstown, Mass., twenty miles north of Pittsfield. In consequence of the inconvenience of managing its interests, while obliged to gather the trustees of the college together from remote points, to vote the degrees which the medical professors recommended, an act of legislation cut the academical and scientific connection in twain, and gave the latter an independent existence.

Long life to the Berkshire: may its shadow never be less!

Many men who have made their mark on the columns of the temple of fame, first figured in its lecture rooms. It has always been a firm foundation to stand upon, with a view to making an ascent into more elevated regions, in which tact, talent, and industry are invariably sustained in this land of enterprise and encouragement.

POPULAR FALLACIES.—Certain extraordinary whims are always held in respect by the masses, and preaching, writing and publishing, against their absurdity, only confirms the people in the belief of their importance. Thus, well-bred ladies and gentlemen consult clairvoyants, paying them generously for examining the interior condition of their livers. This is as common in Boston, the Athens of America, as dining on roast beef and pudding in England. Lancing the gums of teething infants, which aggravates their sufferings a hundred fold; cutting imagined tongue-tied tongues, thousands of which ought to be tied in after years; wearing red strings round the neck, to prevent nose-bleeding; curing toothache by hiding a pea, thereby cheating the dentist; drinking thoroughwort tea at the full of the moon, to obviate the necessity of calling a physician at the wane: feeling natural bone-setters for reducing luxations that never occurred; and implicitly obeying the directions of a seventh son, are a regular New England inheritance. The last grandmother explains the whole thing to her daughter, so the information comes down by regular lineal descent in families. It is mortifying to a cultivated medical practitioner to be obliged to contend with these popular fallacies.—But there is one course before him,—either say nothing against them, or be starved out.

EDITORIAL CHANGES.—Dr. S. D. Gross and Dr. Richardson, of Philadelphia, the former recently of Louisville, Ky., are to become editors of the Medical Examiner, published in that city. The Louisville Review and the Examiner are to be united and hereafter appear under the name of The North American Medico-Chirurgical Review, and will be issued every other month. Dr. Gross is one of the most accomplished surgeons in this country, and, as an author, his writings are extensively circulated.

MARRIAGES.

Dr. Calvin Wetmore, of Illinois, to Miss M. T. Smith.

Rev. Abraham Burnham, of Andover, Mass., to Miss L., daughter of Dr. E. S. Phelps, of Middleton, Mass.

DEATHS.

In Dartmouth, Mass., Dr. Wm. B. Mason, 74. He was admitted a member of the State Medical Society in 1822, and retired from it in 1843.

At Kilrush, county Clare, Ireland, Richard H. Donovan, M. D.

At New Rose, Ireland, Dr. Carroll, 65.

At Bridgewater, Beaver county, Pa., Wesley Smith, son of Dr. Smith, killed with another young man by the falling in of the top of a cave after their entrance.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 6.

Francis E. Couillard 1 mo., Mary Cumming 9 mos. John Scannell 7 do., David Crotty 45 yrs., Bernard, McLaughlin 25 do., James Coleman 45 do., Maria J. Pratt 4 do., Ellen Mahoney, 2 do., Joseph Riley 2 do., Thomas Hickey 13 mos., Mary Homer 61 yrs., Bridget Gibbs 3 mos., Mary Connell 60 yrs., Thomas Glynn 12 mos., Francis Murphy 3 yrs., Ambrose McShane 6 do., Edward Byrnes 11 do., Frederick Clough 2 do., Hannah Kelleher 2 do., Joanna Hawkes 27 do., James H. McManus 4 do., Donald Doyle 5 do., Edward Farrell 33 do., Mary Withington 43 do., Rufus Battles 37 do., Patrick Brick 49 do., Mary A. Tracy 2 do., Michael Teague 2 do., Julia Curran 32 do., Sarah Riley 2 do., Maria L. Small 22 do., Rizpah A. G. Blanchard 21 do., Thomas McCormick 2 mos., Elizabeth Sheehan 12 do., Eliza Donovan 4 do., Henry F. Gutterson 20 do., Charles Kingsbury 4 days, Wm. Coleman 14 mos., Ann M. Ryan 10 do., Mary E. O'Brien 1 do., Charles Richardson 1 day, child of Arden and Julia Hall 2 days, Mary E. Chamberlain 4 years, William H. Chamberlain 13 mos., John Carey 66 years, Charles McCarty 11 do., Catharine Stack 6 do., Thomas Fahy 24 do., Mary McKenney 4 do., Bridget Dolan 33 do., John Crozier 29 do., Joshua H. Hayward 59 do., Peter Small 35 do., Benjamin Selden 25 do., Charles L. Newton jr. 6 do., Emma D. Batchelder 6 do., Lillie L. G. Ingalls 5 do., Justus F. Bradford 28 do., Bridget Shevlin 2 do., Michael Wall 94 do., Ann Plunkett 80 do., Lucy A. Thompkins 27 do., Emma F. Butler 2 do., Maria Cassidy 10 mos., Sarah J. Kilroy 11 do., Thomas B. Smith 8 do., Jeremiah McDonald 1 mo., James White 9 mos., James Tobin 30 years, Mary Porter 79 do., Washington Hunt 6 do., Sarah A. Hall 66 do., Wm. W. Sarsfield 2 do., Wm. Hillman 64 do., Grace F. Johnson 77 do., Edward W. Baxter 2 do., Regina D. Lund 3 do., Jas. Kady 2 do., Mary Nau 6 do., Edward Gillespie 21 do., Alfred Paine 18 mos., Frederick A. Bickford 12 do., Caroline H. Hinckley 3 do., James C. Hallett 17 do., Elizabeth A. Blood 15 do., Hattie C. Alger 9 do., James White 12 do., Mary Brady 4 do., Winifred C. Brizzolara 12 do., John Riordan 18 years, Sarah E. Miley 2 do.

DISEASES.—Accident 2, inflammation of bowels 2, consumption 13, convulsions 6, croup 3, dysentery 2, debility 3, dropsy 3, dropsy in head 4, infantile diseases 3, typhoid fever 3, scarlet fever 21, inflammation of lungs 8, marasmus 2, palsy 2, teething 3; other diseases 1 each, 12; total 92. Born in United States 72, Ireland 16.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

DECEMBER 24, 1856.

NUMBER 13

MEDICINE AMONG THE GREEKS AN- TERIOR TO THE HEROIC AGES.

BY T. L. WRIGHT, M. D., PROF. OF THEORY AND
PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE MEDICAL
COLLEGE OF IOWA.

The ancient Greeks a mixed people—Versatile genius—Favorably situated for pursuit of knowledge—Attention to political science—Knowledge arranged into distinct sciences by the Greeks—Early physicians—Melampus—Source from whence he derived his skill—Stagnation of medical science after the time of Melampus—Causes of it.

The ancient inhabitants of Greece were a mixed people. They came from different countries. The wisest of them emigrated from Phrygia, Phoenicia, and Egypt. Cecrops and Danaus from Egypt, Cadmus from Phoenicia, and Pelops, the Phrygian, were the earliest of the distinguished names of Grecian history. Many men of less note, but of illustrious character also, came into Greece in its infancy; either being driven thither by violence, or wandering in quest of adventure.

The natural tendency of such an intercommunication of men of energy and of accomplishment—according to the customs of the several places of their nativity—was to promote inquiry, to produce emulation, to diffuse knowledge, and elevate the standard of intelligence. The ancient legends describing the early Greeks, bring to mind a swarm of disturbed bees, about settling upon a newly found hive. There was much humming, and buzzing, and anxiety—were many petty jealousies and combats, and many magnanimous and friendly acts, before a final settlement was made, and order and organization were established.

Even in the remotest periods of Grecian history, a great many incidents are related, evincing great proficiency in the civilized arts. But they are so mingled with savage and barbarous elements, as to afford a clear conception of the mixed character of the people. And after the rougher points of the characteristics

of the Grecians became rubbed off, and law and civilization took the place of confusion and incongruity, the character of the individual Greek still partook largely of the versatility and unstable nature of his unsettled ancestry.

It is unnecessary to dwell at length upon the characteristics of the Greeks. The study of Grecian history affords so good an opportunity for learning human nature, that few of those wishing to qualify themselves for correctly estimating the character of mankind, fail to turn to it for information. The peculiarities of the origin of the Greeks, were fortunate for the production of a desire in them, for the possession of knowledge. They were favorable, also, for the formation of the characteristics of energy and perseverance among them, which were especially suited to the dangers and difficulties to be overcome by them, in its pursuit; and they afforded them, moreover, the necessary clues to the receptacles whence they might obtain it. Of these advantages, the Greeks were not slow in availing themselves.

But in the inception of the Greek nations, it was first important to establish laws and government—to arrange boundaries, to form alliances, and make treaties. Hence the greatest advancement was first made by the Greeks, in the science of government. They arranged, and made available what knowledge they already possessed, in that department of wisdom. They added to it by travelling, and observation, and by the instruction of foreigners. Indeed, they were busied for several centuries in establishing and perfecting their political, and social, and religious principles, customs, and rites. In the inquiries they instituted, the authorities they examined, and the examples they imitated in such an enterprise, they necessarily must have acquired much collateral information concerning the medical art. In fact, a number of celebrated characters practised medicine in Greece, in very early times. But they were distinguished rather as exceptions, than rules. Sufficient importance was not at-

tributed to a widely spread knowledge of the medical art, to result in the establishment of schools of medicine, until after the nations of Greece had perfected, and tested, their political strength; and had, moreover, advanced far enough in other branches of science and art, fully to appreciate the importance of a medical education, and to be able to acquire and impart it with facility.

As soon as the nations of Greece were thoroughly organized, and the versatile genius of their people could be turned towards the more polite departments of learning, it was employed in gathering together facts and principles from the chaotic masses of Egyptian knowledge, and in recording, arranging, and generalizing them. Some Egyptians travelled into Greece. All learned Grecians travelled into Egypt, and into other countries—especially Babalonia, and Syria, and perhaps into the remote East, where nations of a similar origin, preserved to some extent, customs similar to those of the Egyptians. When Greece had accomplished her collection of facts, or, more properly, as she accomplished it, her institutions encouraged their discussion and arrangement. Her philosophers were not confined to particulars alone and isolations. They were permitted to examine the harmony and perfection of groups, as well as the nature and relations of particulars. Sciences were at length definitely organized and described; and parts fell naturally and fitly, into their places in the perfection of wholes. When this was accomplished, and the records made up, the mission of ancient Egypt was fulfilled, and the world turned to the Greeks for that knowledge, digested, which they had obtained crude, from Egypt.

Preparatory to examining the circumstances attending the final and perfect transference of medical science from Egypt into Greece, and to the description of its spread, and its professors in the latter country, it is proper to notice the condition of the medical art there, in the earliest ages of its appearance among its inhabitants.

The state of advancement among the Greeks, before they had established an intimate intercourse with Egypt, was but small, in any of the polite arts and sciences. Medicine, among the others, was but little studied, and little practised. The great dependence of the Grecians upon the Egyptians for the fundamental ideas of all their superstructure of learning can be understood, when the fact is stated by Herodotus, that the entire religion—all of the gods of the Grecians, with two exceptions—

were borrowed of the Egyptians. Still, there was enough known of medicine, or of some of its prominent practitioners, to command considerable attention, and occasional notoriety, even in quite early periods of the history of Greece.

The earliest physician in Greece, of whom any connected account remains, was Melampus. Driven from Pylos, he chose Argos for his residence. He was very famous as a soothsayer and poet, or bard, as well as a physician. By what is written of him, by Homer, it would seem that he settled in Argos, as a retreat from persecution. Herodotus gives a different account of him. "Melampus was invited from Pylos by the Argives, for a certain proposed compensation, to remove a kind of madness which prevailed among their women. He demanded of them half their kingdom, upon which the Argives left him with contempt. But upon the malady among their females increasing, they desired to accept his terms, but he then demanded a third part of their kingdom, in addition, for his brother Bias. Compelled by necessity, they acceded to his terms." (Calliope, xxxiv.) It must be owned that much that is written of Melampus, savors of fable. Yet, so much is written of him, circumstantially, and his practice is often so well defined, besides his reputation was so long respected, that no doubt can be entertained of the possession by him, of great medical skill. The incidents related above by Herodotus, respecting Melampus, are by no means incredible. The respect shown to him, and the greatness of his demands and rewards, are but a few, out of numberless examples indicative of the high regard paid to good physicians, by the nations of antiquity. Although the circumstance of Melampus having received half the kingdom of Argos, as a professional fee, may not be strictly true, and its record only indicates the reception by him of an immense reward, as well as the possession of a previously great reputation—it still should be remembered that the kingdom of Argos, in those times, could not have been either very powerful, or extensive, or wealthy. In all probability, it contained but a few families, among the females of which, some disease, incident to the sex, had appeared—mostly likely it was of a puerperal nature—such being frequently epidemic, if not contagious.

Melampus is said to have cured the daughters of King Protus of melancholy, with *Black Hellebore*. From that circumstance, that drug retains, even now, the name of *Melampodium*.

Black Hellebore was a favorite remedy with physicians of antiquity. Melampus also cured sterility, with the rust of iron in wine.

There is no reason to doubt that Melampus was really a skilful and scientific physician. The respect with which he is mentioned by the ancients, his wide-spread reputation, and the convictions of his cotemporaries, that he was possessed of almost miraculous power; the durability of his fame, his recorded triumphs over fearful diseases, minutely described—all testify to the reality of his attainments, and success. It is also a little remarkable that his exploits as a physician, especially relative to the use by him of natural means of cure, were performed upon the diseases incident to the female system especially. If this is not a very remarkable accident, it is indicative of uncommon advancement in the science of medicine, by Melampus. When diseases incident to the female sex are separated into a distinct branch of study, and particularly, when those diseases are evidently understood, and skilfully treated, then medical art has become enlightened, and elevated high above vulgar prejudice, or chance, or superstition. Melampus was no less distinguished as a soothsayer than a physician;—so great was his reputation as a person skilled in divination, that it was customary for those who followed the profession of predicting future events, in after ages, to claim kindred with him, and to profess to operate upon his plans. This was a common kind of trick among the ancients. Numberless pretenders aped King Solomon, and probably fastened upon his character some blemishes and weaknesses, that it does not deserve. Even Hippocrates claimed to have been descended from Esculapius. Many of the present day will be likely to attribute the skill and success of Melampus in soothsaying, to his real knowledge of medicine, and the natural sciences.

In contemplating the history and character of Melampus, the inquiries naturally arise, how it was, that a solitary individual, in so remote a period of Grecian history, as that in which he lived, came into the possession of so great and varied knowledge; and, also, why the art of medicine did not continue to thrive from and after his time? Happily, facts and hints in the history of Melampus, sufficient to afford satisfaction on these questions, remain.

"It was Melampus," says Herodotus, "who first taught the Greeks the name and sacrifice of Bacchus,"—"I therefore pronounce him to have been a man of wisdom, and of skill in divination. Instructed by the Egyptians in

various ceremonies, and particularly in those which relate to Bacchus, with some few trifling changes, he brought them into Greece." (Eut. xlix.) It should be mentioned that Herodotus intimates in the same place, that Melampus might have acquired his information concerning Bacchus, from Cadmus and his Syrian companions. Perhaps it is of no great importance to decide whether he obtained his knowledge from Cadmus or from Egypt directly. It is certain that Herodotus gives to Egypt the maternity of the Bacchanal rites; and expressly declares, that those rites introduced by Melampus, were too similar to those practised in Egypt to admit of the idea of simple coincidence. Besides, it is generally believed that Melampus travelled into Egypt, and was instructed there. And this is by far the most rational explanation of his extraordinary proficiency in the medical art, and in the mysteries and rites, then considered as collateral branches of science with medicine. This explanation is particularly satisfactory, because it is also most in accordance with history.

Notwithstanding the reputation and success of Melampus, no pupils of distinction seem to have arisen up around him. His light shines alone, without any others, with or near it. Herodotus affirms that Melampus, "did not sufficiently explain the mysterious import of the rites of Bacchus," whence may reasonably be inferred that he was chary in imparting his knowledge to others. This was without doubt the fact. Explanations may be easily offered for it; although, the fact being known, they may appear more fanciful or curious, than really useful or necessary.

From the history of Melampus, it may be inferred that he was a man of an ambitious disposition. Finding his knowledge of so much avail in the prosecution of plans of an ambitious nature, he could not long remain in ignorance of the fact, that, "in society knowledge is power." Hence, nothing could be more natural, than that he should be unwilling to impart his skill to others. Such selfishness may appear, in modern days, very ungenerous and mean; yet, when it is remembered that he was alone in his skill in the country where he lived, and that it was not easy, as in modern times, to make a selection from numerous sources of instruction, his conduct does not seem to contrast so strongly with the involuntary liberality of modern professors, as might otherwise appear. To share his knowledge with others, in that age, would be almost like a modern potentate dividing out his power voluntarily.

In addition to being actuated by such motives for retaining within himself the knowledge he possessed of physic, Melampus most likely had but a poor prospect of working refinement and skill, into the rough, and adventurous, and idle youths of his times, in his country. The roving spirit of those ages had but little sympathy with the patient labor and inquiry, necessary to acquire a knowledge of the art of medicine, as practised by such as Melampus. War and adventure were the roads to honor, as they were the delight, also, of the ancient Greeks. They were content to leave the peaceful arts to such as happened to possess them; to honor them and reward them when they became necessary to their welfare, and perhaps, sometimes, to prize them more highly, as they understood them less.

Perhaps another cause operated, either alone or in conjunction with these, to prevent a general spread of medical science from the instruction and example of Melampus. It is well known that knowledge, among the ancients, was in the possession of the priests, chiefly, if not exclusively. In imparting knowledge, many mysterious ceremonies and rites had to be performed. Introducing a new science was equivalent to introducing a new form of worship, if not an entirely new god also. Melampus introduced the worship and mysteries of Bacchus into Greece, yet he did not fully explain them. Independently of selfish reasons for retaining them and the art of medicine, which was most likely, at least in part, contained in them, to himself, he may have found difficulty in introducing new and strange ceremonies of a religious nature into Greece, in a sudden manner. Liberal, as many of the ancient nations undoubtedly were, and the Greeks among the rest, it was still not always possible to impose upon them new and strange gods. The celebrated Anacrisis, the Scythian, is said by one account, to have been slain in an attempt to introduce certain religious rites into his own country.

There seems to be, then, several plausible explanations of the fact, that medicine did not flourish in consequence of the example of Melampus, in Greece, without resorting to a doubt of his own real, and indeed, indisputable skill in the healing art.

A GREAT MEDICAL MAN IN RUSSIA.

Before I go a step further, let me give you some account of my introduction to Russia. In London I had the pleasure to meet Sir James Clarke in consultation in the case of a friend, and told him of my purpose to go at once to Russia, and asked him if he knew any one in St. Petersburg to whom he could give me a letter. Thinking for a moment, he said he did, and would give me a letter to him with pleasure. Soon after I received a letter addressed to Sir James Wiley, Physician to the Grand Duke of Russia. As soon as my arrangements were made for passing some weeks in St. Petersburg, — and official demands being got well through, — I inquired for Sir James Wiley's residence. It was in the Galerney, a street parallel with the English Quay, and directly in the rear of Madame Benson's house, so that a minute's walk brought me to the place. I rang, inquired for Sir James, and handed card and letter to the servant to deliver to his master. It seemed a very long time before I heard from above. The rooms about which I wandered were singularly deficient in furniture, but on the walls were some pictures, which to me are the best furniture. At length John appeared, and asked me to follow him to Sir James. Upon entering the room, my whole attention was attracted by the figure of a very tall old man, — between eighty and ninety, — stretched at full length on a sofa. His face was harsh, hard, solid. You would never have thought him so very old, for these faces wear well, — the skin keeps smooth, the features preserve place, and so have their earlier symmetry. But the expression was singularly disagreeable. It seemed made up of physical suffering, and moral displeasure. Sir James's dress was in keeping with this expression. He wore an old, faded, much soiled, printed calico, dressing-gown. Its acquaintance with the laundry could not have been recent. His long neck, which in men, especially old men, is rarely beautiful, was bare, while the smallest possible portion of shirt here and there showed itself. His expression was hinted at. His lips were compressed with that force of will which says, "You will get little out of me," while the eyes were staring-wide open, as if to see most perfectly what was at that moment before them. He slowly, with labor and pain, half, or nearly half rose from the sofa, and holding my letter in his hand, he seemed to be measuring the time which he

Fossil Fish. — In blasting a rock on the Mississippi, near Minneapolis, the remains or rather perfect cast of a fish, three feet in length, was discovered in the compact limestone, four feet below the surface of the rock.

gave to it and to me, going from one to the other in just such manner as would make the time devoted to us as nearly equal as possible. At length the silence was broken. I shifted the leg upon which I had rested, hat in hand, motionless from my first entering this strange presence.

"I do not know what all this means," going from me to the letter, and from the letter to me. "What *does* all this mean? I do not know this Mr. Clarke, nor he me. I am not physician to the Grand Duke. I am physician to Nicholas, his Majesty—the Emperor. I have been physician to four monarchs of this empire,—Catherine, Paul, Alexander, Nicholas. I understand nothing about this letter." Thus proceeded Sir James, until all the steam was discharged, while I stood hat in hand, and *took it*, as the phrase is. There was no escape but in his exhaustion. In due time he sunk upon his sofa, and I spoke. I expressed great regret that I had given him so much trouble, and so much suffering; and begged him to give me my letter of introduction; and with an assurance that I would annoy him no more, took my leave. Now you may look upon my introduction to Russia as an amusing incident of travel, and let it pass. So could not I. I must confess it troubled me not a little. Sir James had been looked to as a most important agent in my Russian experiences, and in a moment the whole prospect had faded away. "The fountain from the which my current *was to flow*, or else dry up," had in a moment ceased, and I was left as in a parched desert. Slow was my progress homeward from the Galerney, and straight did I walk into my desolate room, and sat down to look at the future,—and what a future was it?

I had not sat very long before a knock at the door. "A servant from Sir J. Wiley." Show him up. "Sir James will be exceedingly obliged to you if you will call on him immediately." I went, and was shown directly up stairs. How changed was the baronet. He was one vast smile,—jubilant,—uproarious. He sprang to on elbow, as if he had lost thirty years since I left him, an hour or two before. His hand was protruded. "Sit down. I am rejoiced to see you. I have found it all out. It is Sir James Clarke, the Queen's physician. He wrote to my nephew, who was a knight. I am a baronet, with armorial bearings, made such by his majesty George IV. Your letter was to my nephew, physician to the Grand Duke, Alexander. He died a year ago." And here Sir

James laughed heartily, as if there was something queer in a nephew's death. "Let me know how I may serve you." A desire was expressed to visit the civil and military hospitals. "Dr. —, with the rank of colonel, will call on you in the morning, and visit all these institutions with you." After this, a day scarcely passed while I was in the city, that I did not call on Sir James. Upon one occasion a young gentleman came in of somewhat singular appearance. His dress was a flowing black garment reaching to his feet, with very full sleeves. It was of a thin wool-len texture, but stiff, so as to stand off and occupy much space. His complexion was dark, hair and eyes dark, and his features decidedly Eastern. He was a Persian. He was very handsome. Sir James introduced him to me, saying that he was his son,—or rather godson. "I have made a Christian of him,—have had him baptized, and stood god-father." The old baronet was in excellent spirits. An officer came in, who was introduced to me as the physician to the Empress, Col. Carrell. He was splendidly dressed. His uniform was white,—snow white,—fitting him perfectly. His epaulettes, sword-hilt, scabbard, sword-belt, hangings, were of the brightest burnished silver. He stood at rest with his hat in his hand, as handsome a man as you will see in a thousand. I said stood, for nobody sat in the presence of the head of the Military Bureau of the Imperial Army. After some very pleasant talk I took my leave.

At another visit, Sir James talked of his war experiences. Among other things he spoke of the battle of Leipsic. Moreau, who was then fighting on the side of the allies, had both his legs shot off by a cannon ball. Sir James amputated both limbs upon the field, but such was the shock Moreau had received from the ball, that he survived but a few hours after the operation. It was in connection with the service rendered by Sir James in that battle, that he was made a baronet, with the privilege of armorial bearings. He told his servant to bring him the patent of his baronetcy, signed by the English monarch, which it was evident he was happy to show me. In connection with this was a display of all the decorations and orders, which he had received from the many monarchs he had served. I told Sir James of my purpose to go to Moscow. He said he would give me letters (which he afterwards did) to his Excellency Prof. Fischer, the head of the Russian Bureau of Natural Sciences, and to Dr. Pfäehl, principal medical

officer of the great Military Hospital in Moscow.

Upon another occasion something was said which carried him back to his boyhood, and his servant was ordered to bring him a certain package, which was very carefully opened, and its contents shown to me. "Here," said Sir James, "are my school books, my first writing books, my ciphering books, and these are my mathematical manuscripts. You see I have kept them all." They were in perfect preservation,—and arranged after the order of time. The writing was excellent, and the neatness of them all showed how early had been formed the habit of doing well what he had done. Here was an old man, between eighty and ninety, and here were the records of his earliest days. He took obvious pride in them, and it was without an effort, to take part in his feelings, and to express the pleasure which such a passage in such a life had excited. Something was said of the interest which would be taken in the history of such a life. Sir James said that he had written a work, in many volumes, of every important event in which he had taken a part. It was finished for the press. But he thought it his duty to the Czar to tell him what he had done. Nicholas begged him to destroy it; and with so much emphasis was the request made, that he promised to comply with it, and had performed his promise. The record of a long life, which had been spent in the active and responsible service of four monarchs, and in the most important portions of Russian history,—which, in fact, embraced almost literally, the whole existence of that empire, was in a moment destroyed. The evidence which had just been shown to me, in the minutest details, of the care in which had been preserved the earliest records of his life,—the intellectual habits of this old man, abundantly showed how well fitted he was for just such a work as he had described to me. The regret was expressed at the loss of such an autobiography. The answer was, the Emperor had directed it, and he had obeyed the command.

Sir James gave me copies of his published works. Among these was a thick volume on the *Materia Medica* of Russia. The day before I left St. Petersburg I called to make my visit of leave. I found him very ill. He had passed a wretched night, and was breathing with so much agony, and was so exhausted, that he could hardly raise his hand to me, or to say farewell. He was stretched out on the sofa, as he was when I first saw him, and it seemed impossible that he would ever rise from

it again. I thanked him for all the kindness he had shown me, and took my leave. It was not without sadness, this leave-taking at the borders of the grave.—*Physician's Vacation.*

HALLUCINATIONS.

Psychological researches have thrown very little light on the real nature of the mind. Without a brain there are no mental phenomena. But how the encephalon is acted upon to produce thought, seems farther than ever beyond the ken of philosophers. Hallucinations are even more difficult of explanation, if possible, than ordinary manifestations of the soul.

Here is one of those marvellous facts which defies explanation upon any known principle. It actually seems like a direct and positive intercourse with a superhuman agent; and yet we must call it hallucination, notwithstanding the verification of many statements of the individual who figures in the narration.

The whole matter was officially investigated by Mr. Decazes, the minister of police; by M. Pinel, and Royer Collard, physicians; by the Viscount de la Rochefoucauld, who records many of the facts in his *Memoirs*; and by the Duke de Montmorency. Nothing of the kind is better attested.

Thomas Ignace Martin was a farm laborer, near Gallardon, not far from Chartres, about thirty-three years of age, and father of a family, when in 1816, as he was engaged in spreading compost over a field, suddenly a young man, of small, slender form and long visage, very white, and clothed in a light-colored surtout, buttoned close and reaching to his feet, laced shoes, and a high-crowned hat, appeared before him, and told him he must go and take a message to the king.

Martin replied that he was not qualified for such a high mission; but the youth told him that he must go. Martin, in return, said he thought the young man himself better fitted for such an office. But "No," was the answer, "it is you that must go." After that the head of the youth descended toward the waist, and the feet rose toward the waist, and the entire figure disappeared. Martin's brother and the curate, to whom he mentioned the circumstance, treated it as an illusion; but the youth repeatedly came with the same communication, and Martin, in alarm, endeavored to escape in flight. But it was of no use. The

vision followed him and found him out. It accompanied him into church, took the holy water with him, sat beside him and came out with him, and, as he hurried home and intended to shut the door upon it, suddenly preceded him, and, face to face, commanded him to do as he was bidden. All this was told to the curate, and by him to the Bishop of Versailles, M. Charrier de la Roche. The vision then appeared and told him his mission was now well commenced. "But how," said Martin, "do you address yourself to me for a commission such as that?" "It is to humble pride," said the youth.

At last Martin resolved to leave the neighborhood altogether, without communicating his intentions to any one; but the youth met him in the barn, and said, "You have resolved to make your escape; but you would not have gone far; you must fulfil your commission." All these things being reported to the Bishop, were communicated by him to Decazes, minister of police, who sent them to the prefect of the department, M. de Breteuil, who ordered Martin and the curate to Chartres. On the evening previous the youth appeared, and told him what would occur, and that he must narrate, faithfully and without fear, what had happened to him. The prefect, having fully examined him, determined to send him to Paris. The minister of police attempted to intimidate him, and to treat him as insane; but Martin was firm and collected, and was always informed beforehand, by his mysterious visitor, of what would befall him, and told that if they tried to prevent the interview by one means it would take place by another. The youth had hitherto refused to tell his name; but now he declared himself to be the angel of Raphael, and that he had power to smite France with all sorts of plagues if it refused to listen. "You must appear," he repeated, "before the king, and in his presence you will be inspired with the message which you are commissioned to deliver to him."

After a long investigation and much correspondence, a full report of which was drawn up by M. Pinel and Royer Collard, physicians, who examined Martin, he was sent to the hospital at Clarenton, to be treated as a lunatic. At this time M. de la Rochefoucauld received a letter, respecting Martin, from the Duchess of Luynes, his grandmother, who resided near Gallardon. It stated the case in such a manner as to excite the curiosity of the Viscount, and he determined to inquire into it, unknown to the minister. For this purpose he paid a

visit to the hospital, without expressing a desire to see any particular patient, but, in general, the whole institution. Accompanied by the director, he visited the numerous cells, and talked with such of the inmates as were accessible to any rays of intelligence. But he took little interest in them; he was looking for Martin, but never named him. At last he found a calm, serene, and intelligent-looking peasant, who, he at once concluded, was the man he was in search of. "What is your name?" "Thomas Ignace Martin, of Gallardon." "What is the matter with you?"—"Me! nothing, but the minister has shut me up here to prevent me from seeing the king." Then the whole story was told. Next day an ecclesiastic was sent by the Bishop of Rheims to examine Martin; and on the evening of the same day, M. de la Rochefoucauld returned and examined him anew. Much correspondence took place after this; and the king, being informed of all by the Viscount, had his curiosity awakened, and resolved to grant the interview, in spite of the minister of police, who always opposed it. During the negotiations, the angel often appeared to Martin, and talked to him, and on one occasion opened his surtout, and showed his bosom, so brilliant with light, that Martin was obliged to put his hands before his eyes. Then he raised his hat, and, pointing to his forehead, said, "A rebel angel has the mark of his own condemnation here,—you see I have not got it. Bear witness of what you have seen." He also shook hands with him.

The king received Martin very graciously, and asked him to sit down on the other side of the table. The interview lasted about an hour. The conversation began with a narration of the facts of the case. After this the king said that he understood that Martin had some secret to communicate to him. Up to this time Martin knew nothing of the secret; but no sooner had the king spoken the word than Martin's organs of speech were suddenly seized by an irresistible force, and he spoke volubly, without even choosing his expressions. The secret was, that, in hunting in the forest of Saint Hubert, the king had formed the design of assassinating his brother, Louis XVI. He had a double-barrelled gun, and with one barrel he meant to shoot the king, and then fire the other in the air, pretending to have been attacked, but was prevented from executing the design by being entangled among the branches of a tree, through which the king passed freely. On hearing this, Louis wept

bitterly, and confessed the truth, but extorted a promise from Martin, that he would preserve his secret, which Martin did as long as the king lived. The king was then making preparations for his coronation, but Martin told him if he dared to receive the oil of consecration, he would be struck dead during the ceremony. Accordingly, the king countermanded the preparations, and he was never crowned. He was ordered to look for the proper heir, the orphan of the Temple, who, Martin said, was alive. He also promised to tell his brother, afterwards Charles X, of this, and is said, by M. de la Rochefoucauld, to have faithfully done so. But no search took place, and Charles X, who accepted the consecration and coronation, was dethroned, and died in exile, as Martin foretold. At the death of Louis XVI, Charles X sent the Duke de Montmorency to Martin, to endeavor to make him change his testimony. But Martin was firm. The interview took place in the house and presence of the Cure de Bleury, near Gallardon.

In speaking of this well authenticated history of Martin, the *Journal de France*, of Jan. 20, 1817, says: "It follows from the report of MM. Pinel and Royer Collard, that the science of medicine did not supply these two learned doctors with the means of explaining a phenomenon such as that of Martin."

ANTIMONY.

Slow Poisoning by Antimony.—A case of antimonial poisoning at Bolton-le-Moors has attracted much attention. From the depositions placed in our hands, and from the facts adduced at the trial, we infer that the influence of antimony in accelerating the death of the man, McMullen, husband of the prisoner, was proved. The antimony was administered for a long period, at varying intervals, and in doses possibly of from one to five grains, combined with cream of tartar; this combination forming a compound commonly sold in Bolton under the name of "quietness," for women to give to their drunken husbands. The symptoms were at first those of dyspepsia attended with vomiting, but in the last days of the patient they were much more aggravated. There was vomiting, pain in the stomach, prostration, and ultimately typhoid sinking and jaundice. It is worthy of remark, that, for the last four days at least, the patient had no antimony, a guard being kept over him. The autopsy disclosed many of the specific signs of antimonial poisoning—viz., injection of the stomach, duo-

denum, rectum, and inner surface of the bladder; semi-fluidity of the blood, and pulmonary congestion. At the same time, there was marked evidence of old-standing organic disease. The lungs were emphysematous. There were pleural adhesions, and a slight effusion into the pericardial cavity. The bowels were loaded with scybala, and had been constipated previous to death. The liver was congested, but the cystic and hepatic ducts were pectalous. The right kidney was congested. The analysis, very carefully made by Mr. Watson, showed antimony to be present in the liver, kidneys, spleen, urine, and in the scybala; but absent in the stomach, intestines, lungs, and heart. The poison was also detected in tea, and in some medicine which had been given to the deceased by the prisoner. The liver was the chief *depot* of the poison.

There are many points of interest in the symptoms of this case; as the constipation, the seeming absence of diaphoresis, and the jaundiced condition preceding death. An attempt was made by the defence to prove that the case was one of natural gastro-enteritis; but this argument failed, and the prisoner was transported for life on a verdict of manslaughter.

Physiological Deductions regarding Antimony.—A long-continued and careful series of experiments have been made by the writer of the present report, on the subject of antimonial poisoning. The experiments have now extended over several months, and have formed the subject of two communications to the Medical Society of London. The following are the conclusions arrived at:—

1. That antimony, both as regards the symptoms it induces and the pathological results arising from its administration, excites effects in the dog identical with those which it excites in man; and that experiments on dogs thus afford a fair basis of comparative research.
2. That the skin, peritoneum, cellular tissue, lungs, all absorb antimony in its soluble form, with as much certainty as the stomach; and that, whether introduced by any of these channels, or by direct transfusion into the blood through the veins, the diffusion of the poison is equally complete, and its effects specifically the same. (Absolute.)
3. That, after any such mode of introduction, antimony may be detected in the vomited and purged matters, in the stomach and in the contents of the stomach, in the intestines and their contents, and in the lungs, liver, kidneys, blood, urine, heart, and even in serum effused into cavities, if such

be present. (Absolute.) 4. That, consequently, the detection of antimony in vomited or purged matters, in the stomach or the contents of the stomach, or in the intestines or in their contents, can no longer be considered as any judicial scientific proof that the poison was introduced into the system by the alimentary canal at any part, as has been assumed. (Absolute.) 5. That antimony, being absorbed with great rapidity wherever introduced, the point of surface at which it is taken into the system may afford slighter indication of the presence of the poison than any other parts of the organism; *ergo*, that the point of introduction can never be proved by mere chemical analysis. (Absolute.) 6. That antimony, applied locally, so as to admit of being rapidly absorbed, seems to excite but little amount of local injury, although it exerts marked local effects when brought by the blood to any surface for elimination; *ergo*, that the appearance of intense redness or inflammation in the stomach or other part of the alimentary canal, in supposed cases of death from antimony, is no scientific proof, nor yet indirect evidence, that the poison was received into the system by this canal. (Absolute.) 7. That the symptoms of poisoning by antimony by large doses are, as a general rule, those of vomiting, purging, and rapid collapse; and that the same symptoms, somewhat modified in their course, result from small doses, repeated frequently during a prolonged period. 8. That to this rule exceptions occur: to wit, that antimony, when thrown into the system in a large dose, and in such a way as to prevent its digestion, — as by direct injection into the veins, — may destroy the muscular power so suddenly that the symptoms of vomiting and purging may not present themselves. And again, that, when introduced very slowly, as by application to a small wound, it may also destroy by producing simple exhaustion, without the specific symptoms of purgation or vomiting. 9. That, in all forms of antimonial poisoning, death occurs mainly from failure of the circulation; the respirations being continued after the cessation of the heart's beat. 10. That the pathological appearances incident to antimonial poisoning are — (a) general congestion; (b) marked fluidity of the blood; (c) intense vascularity of the stomach in the course of the greater curvature, and, in some cases, of the rectum and other parts of the canal, but without ulceration; (d) a peculiarly pale yellow or occasional dark, glairy secretion on the alimentary surface; j lastly, contrary to the statements of

Magendie, antimony seems to excite no other pulmonary lesion than simple congestion. 11. That the election of antimony by different parts of the body is, as yet, an open question; that the liver, however, would appear to be the structure in which it is most collected when the administration is slow and in small doses; and that the elimination of the poison is attempted by all the secreting surfaces. 12. That, in rapid poisoning, the fatal effect seems due to direct chemical change in the blood, and to indirect effect therefrom on the heart; while, in slow poisoning, there is superadded an interference with the assimilative powers, the result of the lesions excited in the stomach and other parts of the alimentary canal.

We have further to remark, that, in animals dosed for a few days with antimony, and then kept for periods of seven, fourteen, and twenty-one days, antimony was found in each case in abundant proportions in the liver, and in smaller proportions in the kidney and heart; and also in the contents of the stomach in cases where the animals were destroyed during digestion of food.

The "tolerance" of antimony seems to us to depend entirely on the free elimination of the poison by the kidney.

LUXATION OF THE FEMUR

On to the Ramus Superior (or Descendens) of the Ischium. By Dr. Krause. (Henle und Pfeuffer's Zeitschrift, Band vii. p. 346.)

Dr. Krause describes the case of a man who fell on the frozen ground, from a scaffold fifty feet high, nothing having broken his fall. Among other injuries was found a dislocation of the femur. The left limb was, in appearance, considerably shortened, having the hip and knee-joints flexed, and the ankle stretched out. It was strongly rotated inwards, the foot being directed towards the tarsus of the sound limb. The flexion forward at the hip amounted to about 30°, the rotation to 90°, so that the anterior surface of the thigh was directed inwards. In this position the thigh was immovably fixed, with the exception of slight adduction and flexion. The trochanter was found to be more projecting than on the other side, while the configuration of the region was considerably changed by reason of a large swelling in the vicinity of the ischiatic notch. The head of the bone could be easily felt under the muscles. The patient soon died, the liver and spleen having been ruptured in the fall.

On examination, the head of the bone was

found, at the upper end of the *ramus superior* (or *descendens*) of the ischium above the tuber, on a level with the empty acetabulum, so that, during life, the limb would have been neither shortened nor lengthened. It was only covered with the *glutæus maximus*, the *g. medius* and *minimus* lying upwards and forwards. The sciatic nerve was dragged somewhat inwardly, but without being much torn. The head of the bone was almost immovably fixed, in consequence of the great tension of the tendons of the *obturator externus* and *internus*, which winded around the neck, the one on the upper, the other on the lower side, and compressed it against the portion of the ischium between the tuber and the under edge of the acetabulum. The *pyriformis* and *gemellus superior* muscles were uninjured, although the latter were very tense. The capsule was torn from the posterior surface of the neck close to its insertion, to an extent of more than one-half the circumference of the neck, the torn portions lying across the opening of the acetabulum. The *ligamentum superius* was uninjured, though much stretched, and carried considerably more posteriorly than its normal position. The *ligamentum teres* was torn at eleven millimetres' distance from its insertion in the head of the bone, an enormously extended thin string of it still remaining, and passing obliquely forwards over the head of the femur. An irregular portion of the acetabulum (twenty-seven millimetres by eighteen), was broken off, and lay upon the tendon of the *obturator internus*, which was expanded over the opening in the acetabulum. The fragment must have been carried away under the operation of a force acting from before, backwards, the resulting aperture being filled up by the extended tendon of the *obturator internus*. All other parts of the joints were uninjured, as also were the *quadratus femoris* and the other muscles arising from the tuber.

This kind of fixing the head of the bone between the two obturators, the tendons of which, in a normal condition, both lie behind it, could only be brought about by strong flexion, accompanied or followed by rotation inwards. This winding round the neck, together with luxation on the *ramus ischii*, can only be produced by the impulsion of the neck of the femur (the limb being flexed forwards and rotated inwards), by a force acting in the longitudinal axis of the limb, against the upper anterior edge of the acetabulum. This forms the point of support to the fulcrum, around which the continued movement of the head against

the posterior edge of the acetabulum takes place. In the present case this broke away, and allowed of the issue of the head backwards between the two obturators. This view of the mechanism of the accident was confirmed by an experiment which the author instituted, and by the statements of the eye-witnesses of the occurrence, who state that the man, slipping horizontally forwards on the scaffold, fell to the ground with his chin and knees together. Reposition, in the event of survival, could here have been accomplished only by prior rupture of the encircling obturators, as these muscles quite prevented all attempts at reduction.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF CANADA WEST.

A late number of the "*Hamilton Journal and Express*" has a very well written article entitled, "Our Medical Schools," in which the writer has embodied, in a small compass, much that is interesting, relating to the rise and fall of medical schools in Toronto. He commences by stating that "Toronto and indeed Upper Canada, may now be said to be without a medical school, if we except Queen's College, Kingston, which has not yet acquired much distinction." Within the last few years there have been no less than three medical schools, all more or less efficient, in the neighboring city, where students might qualify for a license to practise medicine, surgery, and midwifery in Canada; now our young aspirants for medical honors must be content with the slender means which Kingston affords, or wander down to Montreal, or to some city in the neighboring Republic where the necessary instructions can be obtained." We have italicised portions of the above quotation, as they afford a fair indication of the estimation in which Queen's College is held by the public of Upper Canada, as a school of medicine. It is a distinct endorsement of the opinion already expressed by ourselves, which at the time of its enunciation excited the wrath of the Boarnerges of the Medical Faculty, and called forth a pamphlet in reply, distinguished, if our memory serves us aright, more for its inflated style and coarse personalities, than for strength of argument or successful defence of the course of instruction followed at Queen's College. With the members of the Medical Faculty of Queen's College we have no dispute. We are acquainted with some of them, and know them only to respect them. But, while we remain in the

position we now occupy, as editors of the *Medical Chronicle*, we are determined to lift our voices against everything which has a tendency to lower the standard of medical education, and cheapen University Medical Degrees in the Province of Canada even at the risk of incurring the displeasure of interested parties. To return, however, to the history of the Western medical schools, as given by the writer in the *Journal and Express* :—

“In the year 1849, the University of Toronto was wrested from the Anglican Church, and placed on a broad Provincial basis, and the medical school in connection with it soon became prosperous and efficient. In the session of 1851-2, through the influence of Dr. Rolph, and those who thought with him, the endowments were swept away, and the medical department of the University of Toronto soon disappeared, leaving no trace behind, except the power of granting Degrees in medicine.

“Upon its ruins, aided by the *eclat* of the then much vaunted self-sustaining system, the Toronto School of Medicine, which had been in existence for some time, with Dr. Rolph for its head, rose to greater public distinction. There being little or no opposition to this school, and, moreover, it being carried on with considerable spirit, its success was marked, although the remuneration to the teachers for the time and trouble bestowed on their lectures was anything but sufficient, still they were determined to establish the self-sustaining system, and they manfully struggled against all the difficulties with which they had to contend. About two years ago the Toronto School of Medicine was merged in the medical department of the Victoria College, Cobourg, and it thus obtained the power of granting Degrees of medicine.

A rival medical school was started about the same year, in connection with Trinity College, but from its sectarian exclusiveness, its success was not marked, and owing to the same cause it died a natural death in six months, the teachers having resigned in a body because the Bishop would not forego the test system, and allow Doctors to teach youths to study without an adherence to the thirty-nine articles.

“At the commencement of the present month, there was but one medical school in Toronto, viz. : that in connection with Victoria College. Its advertisement showed a goodly list of Professors and Teachers, from the distinguished ‘Emeritus,’ whose name was merely used as a decoy, and who did not work, down to the more humble, but at the same

time, more useful, ‘Demonstrator.’ Now, this beautiful establishment is *non est*.”

All the Professors have resigned their chairs with the exception of Dr. Rolph, who is now the sole teacher of medical science in the Victoria College. The causes that have led to this disruption may be stated briefly as follows :—Dr. Rolph, whose energy and talents are generally known and acknowledged throughout the Province, was appointed, in our opinion justly, Dean of the Medical Faculty of Victoria College, by the Board of Management of that Institution. A more irresponsible Dean, however, never before held place, and in making him *such* a serious evil was committed. The power of managing solely, and without reference to his colleagues, all matters connected with the school, pecuniary or otherwise, was conferred upon him, with the simple proviso that he must submit, whatever he determined on, to the said Board before it could become law. The Medical Faculty “were to do the will of Dr. Rolph, be good boys, in fact, do their work and ask no questions, and at the end of the session they would get what money was coming to them, after the funds had been well drained by expenses of management, by an irresponsible Dean.” Truly, here was a “one-man power,” established in all its purity, and it would not have required great discriminating powers to have prognosticated that the time must come when this power would become so offensive to high-spirited men, that a continuation in office under its *régime* would be impossible. It is so natural to man to lord it over his fellows, that that person must possess inestimable qualities who, when invested with irresponsible power, does not feel inclined to indulge in a little tyranny.

“Man, proud man, clothed in a little brief authority,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high Heaven
As make the angels weep.”

So said one of the greatest observers of human nature the world ever produced. It need not excite surprise, therefore, that Dr. Rolph should attempt to dictate to the Medical Faculty what the fees of each class were to be, and the hour at which each teacher was to deliver his lectures. Nor can it excite surprise that the attempt was indignantly met by the Faculty, who, like men of spirit, conscious of their own abilities, instantly resigned positions which they could not hold without doing violence to their feelings of manly independence. In 1600 it was positively announced as having

It is certainly to be regretted that Upper Canada should be deprived of the two excellent schools of medicine that have lately succumbed in Toronto; for there is no doubt that better teachers or more effective teaching could not be desired, than were to be found in the Faculties of Medicine of Trinity and Victoria Colleges. — *Mont. Med. Chron.*

ALCHEMY.

Every animal has its parasite, which, instead of roaming in quest of food, snugly ensconces itself in the tissues of its victim, and there feeds in comfortable abundance, in otiose prosperity, earning its daily bread without sweat of brow, or pains of invention. If we examine closely, we shall find that this idle parasite is also the victim to some smaller parasite, who, like Thackeray's poor Irishman, always found dependent on some Irishman not quite so poor, lives at second-hand upon the juices of parasite primus. In literature, a similar phenomenon presents itself. Some laborious German, patient, stolid, loving labor for its own sake, and never happier than when surrounded with the *debris* of erudition, after years of *Forschungen* — researches which have been lighted and lightened by many pipes, and saddened by much dyspepsia, — produces a huge book, crammed with material, good, bad, very bad, and indifferent. If the book have any vitality, we shall soon find that some nimble Frenchman, or some steadfastly practical Englishman, has fastened himself upon it, sucking its juices, thriving on its abundant food, and growing there with no more onerous labor than is devoted to the process of digestion. If the parasite prospers, it will not be long before some nimbler and minuter Frenchman, or some Englishman with still greater love of short-cuts to results, will be found living on this second-hand food, much to his own satisfaction. First comes a work in plethoric octavo; then a slim and graceful duodecimo; then a review article.

Alchemy is extinct. All over Europe a few solitary adepts still in secret pursue the study; but it has irrevocably passed away from the circle of the sciences, merged as it is in the science of Chemistry. But although no longer studied as a science, it deserves to be studied as a phenomenon of human development; and unhappily, great as this interest is, the obscurity of alchemical works, and the general belief that Alchemy was nothing but one huge error and

will-o'-wisp, such as no enlightened age could tolerate, have deterred men from studying its history with the patience it deserves. The notion respecting the utter absurdity of Alchemy is in many respects false, and in all exaggerated. Alchemy was much nearer a positive science than were most of the systems of metaphysics which have been deemed worthy the study of our serious minds. It started in quest of an unattainable object, furnished with very imperfect means; but as Bacon profoundly saw, it carried with it unsuspected results far richer than the result it sought; and in this sense he compares it to the "husbandman in Æsop, who, being about to depart this life, told his sons that he had left them a great quantity of gold buried in his vineyard, but did not remember the particular place:—who, when they had with spades diligently turned up all the vineyard, gold indeed they found none; however, by reason of their stirring and digging the mould about the roots of their vines, they had a very great vintage the year following. So the strenuous pains and mighty stir of chemists about making gold, have opened the way to a great number of noble inventions and experiments singularly adapted as well to the disclosing of Nature as to the uses of life." If in Bacon's time so much was visible to his penetrating eye, how much more visible is the grandeur of the results to us who possess a chemistry, theoretical and applied, compared with which the chemistry of Bacon's day is but the inarticulate babbling of a child. To transmute copper into gold would really have been but a small result, although it seemed so magnificent to the Alchemists; but the specific knowledge gained by "the strenuous pains and mighty stir" of these gold-makers has enabled us to multiply our powers thousandfold.

The Alchemists were sometimes earnest and honest men, often shameless charlatans, and mostly men who, beginning in earnest, glided imperceptibly into deceit. When one charlatan was exposed, the believers could still refer to those whom none dare accuse of charlatanism; when one failed to do what he had promised, there still remained the recorded successes of others to cheer the believers. The execution of Bragadino did not prevent emperors and cardinals from implicitly trusting other adventurers. Bragadino, whose real name was Mamugno, was born in the island of Cyprus. He pretended that he was the son of Marco Antonio Bragadino, Governor of Venice, killed by the Turks in 1571. After a

voyage to the East, where he became initiated into the secrets of the Alchemists, he went to Italy, in 1578, under the title of Count Magagnaro, and there became very famous, making public exhibitions of his power of transmuting metals, which power he gave out as the origin of his own wealth ; — the fact being that he derived his money from dupes to whom he sold the secret at a high price. For no one seems to have been surprised at the fact that all these gold-makers demanded large sums of money for their secret, when it would have been so easy for them to keep their secret, and make all the gold they desired ; and the Emperor Ferdinand promised many thousand thalers to one whom he employed to discover the philosopher's stone, never reflecting that, if found, the stone would render such a promise needless. So Bragadino sold his secret. If the purchasers did not succeed, it was because they had not properly followed his instructions. He succeeded — as witness his public exhibitions. Did he not in the palace of Cantarena, astonish the assembly by changing mercury into gold ? His secret simply was to employ an amalgam of mercury and gold. Nevertheless the Doge of Venice purchased his secret at an enormous sum, and Bragadino quitted Venice before his cheat was discovered. In 1588 he travelled over Germany, under the name of Count de Bragadino. He declared that he had Satan himself as his slave ; — an assertion well calculated to inspire respect in Germany, where the presence of two large black dogs, ferocious and satanic in aspect, always by his side when he was performing his mysteries, was undeniable evidence of his having demons for slaves. After astonishing Vienna, he went to Munich, and in 1590 he was summoned to exhibit his skill before the Court. Unhappily for him his cheat was detected, and he was hanged without hesitation. The two dogs, innocent representatives of the black gentleman, were shot underneath the gallows.

That Bragadino was an impostor, and hanged as such, was no reason why those who came after him should be considered impostors any more than that he should at once have been suspected because he followed so closely in the footsteps of another, namely, the famous Thurneysser, who after roaming about Europe in company with vagabonds and charlatans, among whom he learned proficiency in jugglers' trick, presented himself before the Archduke Ferdinand, and gained his confidence, artfully declaring that he was not in

full possession of the secret, but that he was on the traces. The Prince gave him every means of acquiring the desired knowledge, furnishing him with money for his voyages in Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Scotland, Italy, Greece, Egypt, and Arabia ; for it was one of the fixed ideas of the Alchemists that the philosopher's stone would be found in the course of many wanderings. The early and sincere workers believed in a sort of predestination. In their travels they would meet with some one who would reveal the secret. Indeed, the secret was too great and mysterious to be in the possession of any vulgar fellow-citizen ; only some mighty sage, living in distant lands, could possibly discover it. And as travel necessarily enlarges the conceptions and increases the knowledge, there was some meaning in the superstition. George Ripley, in 1470, declared he gained all his knowledge on his travels. Count Trevigo, between 1452 and 1472 journeyed through Italy, Spain, England, Scotland, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Greece, Barbary, Egypt, Palestine, Persia, "et je dépendy en ces choses," he says, "bien dix mille trois cents escuz, et fuz en moult grande pauvreté et n'auoys plus guerres d'argent. Et tousiours je cherchois si puisse nulluy trouver qui me peult conforter." Thurneysser also travelled far and wide at the Prince's expense. If he did not bring back the philosopher's stone, he brought back some medical knowledge ; and was soon made physician to the Elector of Brandenburg. In this position he acquired an immense fortune and renown. He sold rouge and cosmetics to the court ladies, almanacs of prophetic astrology to all classes. He had a laboratory in which he sometimes manipulated before two hundred visitors ; and a printing establishment expressly for his works, which were eagerly sought all over Germany. He also had his slave demon ; and this docile, but not handsome servant, was kept in a bottle, which was occasionally shown to the public, to the entire refutation of insolent skepticism. Soon, however, his frauds became notorious. The eyes of the Elector were opened, and in 1585 Thurneysser escaped from Berlin, but in such haste that he left his "bottle imp" behind him. On inspection the imp proved to be a scorpion preserved in oil.

There is but one point more we shall notice here, and that is the belief in a possible *palingenesis*, or new birth, which was derived from alchemical studies. That men should be able to reconvert the ashes of a flower into a living flower, seemed by no means impossible.

been effected. That the pretended marvel was a trick, we need not add; but the conception itself, in serious minds, was not unnatural. The knowledge of possible decomposition naturally suggests possible recomposition;—why cannot that which has been taken to pieces be put together again? Until quite recently the idea was considered utterly chimerical; chemical philosophy declared that only inorganic substances could be artificially composed by man,—organic substances defied his skill. Modern organic chemistry has, however, approached somewhat nearer to the old alchemical philosophy; and although it is as far as ever from the secret of making the simplest plant or animal, it is gradually extending its power into the region of organic substances. Urea has for many years been formed in the laboratory; alcohol has been made by M. Berthelot, and that chemist has quite recently succeeded in making the essence of mustard. These discoveries are leagues from the discovery of how to make a simple organic cell, but they serve to connect by one more link the daring hypothesis of the Alchemists with the verified results of modern chemistry; and the connection is interesting, as an illustration of the difference in the mental conditions of the two epochs. The Alchemist, with his slender knowledge of the properties of bodies, outruns all experience, and leaps at the highest possible results. He no sooner conceives the idea of palingenesis, than he attempts to restore the living flower from its ashes. From this to the attempt to create an *Homunculus*, there is but a step. The modern chemist, on the other hand, aided by all the appliances of his laboratory, working on the store of material accumulated during centuries of patient research, so far from attempting to create an organism, thinks it an immense discovery to make one of the inferior organic substances.—*West. Rev.*

Tight Gloves and Shoes.—Were the kind of gloves and shoes worn by those who would not think themselves fashionably dressed, if either was as easy as the natural covering of their skin, imposed by the sentence of a judge, for infringing a statute law, how awfully cruel it would be considered. Yet those who thus confine the bloodvessels, and embarrass the circulation cannot account for their headaches, paralytic shocks, palpitations, and other disturbances of the vital apparatus,—as they have uniformly avoided all excesses. Were each finger bandaged tightly down to the bone, two hours a day, what would be the probable effect upon the general health?

CANADIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

The Semiannual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Lower Canada, was held at Quebec, 14th Oct., 1856, when were present:—Drs. Frémont, Morrin, Hall, Fowler, Badeau, Marmette, Marsden, Foster, Jones, Gauvreau, Charest, Tétu, Weilbrenner, Turcotte, Munro, Jackson, Boyer, Bibaud, Von Iffland, Glines, Robitaille, Michaud, Fraser, Peltier, Sewell, Sabourin, Russell, Boudreau, and Landry.

Dr. Frémont, the President of the College, in the chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last semiannual meeting held in Montreal in May last; also the minutes of the triennial meeting, held in Three Rivers in July last, for the purpose of electing its board, giving at the same time extracts of said minutes relative to the election of Governors, and to certain amendments proposed to the by-laws.

The meeting gave its approval of the above.

The President informed the Board that he had submitted the project of those amendments for the approbation of the Governor in Council, but that as yet he had not received any answer. Walter Thorp, Esq., received his license on the presentation of his diploma from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Dublin, and after taking the required oath.

Mr. Stevens, a pupil of McGill College, requested the privilege of his license without examination, on the plea that, being ill at the time when it was required to pass his examination and take his diploma at McGill College, and having since, on the 8th inst., passed a satisfactory examination, and obtained, as a proof, a certificate from Dr. Holmes, the President of the Medical Faculty, giving him the right to the diploma at its next convocation. His demand was rejected.

Mr. J. S. Crookshank, having a diploma of the College of Physicians of Glasgow, was allowed to pass an examination solely on the branches which were not on the face of his diploma.

Dr. Peltier, one of the Secretaries, begged to be heard, and spoke at length on the advantages which the medical profession would derive if the Board of Governors, the foremost sentry of the profession, would cease to be but a jury of examiners; if, understanding better its rights and its mission, it were to act energetically, in proposing measures affecting the

general interest of the profession, and take, with Government and society, the position which the talent and the respectability of its members entitle them to have.

Dr. Von Iffland spoke also in approval of the above, and proposed the election of a Committee whose work would be to attain this end.

Drs. Morrin and Russel followed, and made a few remarks in conformity with Dr. Peltier's observations.

Dr. Marsden proposed, seconded by Dr. Marmette, and it was unanimously resolved — "That two members of this Board be associated with the Vice-Presidents in Quebec and Montreal respectively, to meet and report at the next meeting of the Board, a project by which the College of Physicians and Surgeons may be extended in usefulness and importance to the profession and public health in general, with power to add to their number."

Drs. Morrin, Von Iffland, Heltier, Bibaud, Marsden, and Hall, were, by virtue of this resolution, named to compose the said Committee.

The Board then proceeded to the examination of candidates.

The following gentlemen, after satisfactory evidence of their abilities, received their license : —

Messrs. Alex. D. Stevens, U. Tétu, Napoléon Lavoie, Moses Mayball, Samuel Rinfret, A. Marien, Isaie Demers, Luc Quintal, L. Forest.

The following gentlemen, after a satisfactory examination, were admitted to the study of medicine : —

Messrs. Ernest Roy, Ed. Painchaud, Emile Dumais, Charles Ouellet, Frs. Langlois, J. Nestor Chopin, L. Desrosiers, L. Turgeon, Ad. Mignault, N. Duchesnois, Moise Geoffroy, Jean Boudreau.

Dr. Jones acquainted the meeting of old standing accounts against the College, previous to his entering on his trust as Treasurer, and for the liquidation thereof he obtained a unanimous assent. — *Mont. Med. Chron.*

Trees. — Dr. R. N. Piper, of Woburn, Mass., is publishing a work on the trees of America. His illustrations are beautiful. Dr. Piper is an artistical genius, and without a competitor in copying nature. D'Jay Browne, Esq., of the Patent Office, at Washington, wrote a work on the Forest Trees of America, many years since, that was well received by the learned.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

MOTION — LIFE. — At Northampton, Mass., not far from one hundred miles west from Boston — a town unsurpassed for natural beauties and refined society, there are several institutions for invalids. Each has its patrons — and they are all of them presumed to be under the personal medical management of gentlemen of tried experience, whose names and reputations are familiar to the public.

One of the Water-Cure establishments in Northampton has the additional name of *Motorpathic Institute*, and the proprietor is H. Halsted, M. D.

Thus much for an introduction to what may follow.

A small publication bearing this title : — *Motion — Life : or The Demon of the Age and Means of its Exorcism*, by H. Halsted, M. D., was received so recently that its contents have not perhaps been studied as thoroughly as deserved, to obtain a full understanding of the object and aims of the author.

Each chapter is sensibly written, and the conclusions from certain premises are logical. But we don't quite obtain the thing sought for in the attempt to discover what the discovery may be that is contemplated. It is inferred, however, that *motion* is the remedy for a variety of human ills. But the scientific method of putting the physical, debilitated apparatus of the body into activity, to bring about a restoration from sickness to health, is not revealed.

It would be a gratification to know the real technical difference between *Kinesipathy* and the Motorpathic manipulations at the Institute. Perhaps they are not essentially different. The way to ascertain the point would be to visit those who practise both.

Of course we shall not inflict a stupid dissertation on our readers in regard to a kind of medical practice of which we are absolutely ignorant, nor positively recommend them to throw their old physic to the dogs, till the question is decided whether something better is to be had. Because we cannot grope our way in the dark, it would be most charitable in the discoverers or professors of each and every new school of medicine, to explain their own theories and practice, when an honest confession is made in this form, that neither are clearly comprehended by reading. When doses are prescribed, of definite weight or measure, and specific directions are given how to proceed

when such and such symptoms are recognized, the way is plain.

Dr. Halsted's work presents no such specific details. With those additions, each page would inspire a more decided confidence than the bare mention of a new system unaccompanied by them.

If Dr. Halsted would consider it a privilege to explain away the difficulties that obstruct our vision, it may also oblige others who are equally in the dark, and upon the principle of universal tolerance in medicine which we advocate, space for doing so is at his service in this journal.

"Suppose an individual has arrived at the age of puberty, with every part of the system well developed and nicely balanced. He has been educated physiologically and psychologically, with direct reference to the laws of health and the preservation of life; no one thing is in excess; perfect, complete, harmonious action, exists in every atom which composes his frame. At that age he commences an excessive indulgence of his appetite. Food and drink are thrown into the stomach, which in quality are innutritious, because difficult of digestion and requiring much *vita-motive* power to accomplish it; and the quantity is inordinate, making a large mass to be disposed of in some way, which, notwithstanding the large amount of vital force which the stomach calls to its aid at the expense of other vital operations going on in the system, is but imperfectly chyliified. In consequence, unassimilated matter finds its way into the circulation. Here it remains as a foreign substance, unfit for the uses of nourishment, clogging the vessels by its presence, until it is deposited in some part of the body, where its unadaptation to the wants of the part, causes it to create irritation and engender disease, until the *vita-motive* power stimulates the lymphatics to take it up and expel it from the system. The recuperative forces being strong and vigorous, they will for a time resist the injurious effects of this undue amount of labor imposed upon them. But the retention of unassimilated matter, which is no better than poison to the body, will eventually have its influence. This may be slight at first, but the continued deposition of unhealthy material for the renewal of worn-out matter, will gradually accumulate, until every part of the system suffers from the presence of such material and the attendant derangement. The blood, from its loaded state, cannot circulate freely. The brain not being nourished by healthy material for its renewal, its capacity for producing the

vita-motive power is diminished, and thus there is a continued decrease of action in both forces. This constitutes a loaded state of the system favorable to the development of contagious diseases, fevers and inflammations. If the excess is more gradually entered into, it may result in a general delicacy, want of strength, and languor of body. If there be a predisposition to disease in any particular organ, the impurities will be deposited there, and the disease will manifest itself according to the particular causes which operate upon the individual, for there are no two persons situated or constituted alike. All have their own idiosyncrasies, often derived from birth, if not from the circumstances by which they have been surrounded, and their habits of adaptation to them. The cause which in one would produce dyspepsia, may develop in another scrofula, in another pulmonary disease, and so on through the whole catalogue of organic diseases.

When the balance between the two forces has been so imperfectly imparted to the child in embryo, as never to act in harmony, it constitutes a hereditary diathetic state of the constitution, which predisposes to certain diseases. The weakest organ of the body is usually first affected, and remains the primary seat of disease, around which often cluster innumerable secondary affections."

"Hysteria is one of the common forms of nervous disease, and of all the sympathetic affections, is one of the most aggravating and distressing. It completely unfits its victim for every enjoyment of life and for every participation in its duties. It might almost be said to free her from responsibilities, for her mind is often so affected as to make her wholly unconscious of what she is doing. Perhaps no one thing that has ever afflicted the sex, has been the means of heaping upon her such an amount of ridicule and contumely as hysteria; or has so robbed her of the sympathy of her own and the opposite sex. Seized in one of the distressing paroxysms of her malady, she declares that she is dying, and because she does this, time after time, and year after year, and still lives on, apparently no nearer to her end than at her first attack, her disease becomes a by-word and a jest. Her peculiarities are unkindly dealt with, and sympathy for her sufferings is withdrawn. Even her physician will sometimes stand by and witness her difficult respiration and screams of terror, with an ironic smile upon his countenance, and say, "there is nothing the matter; she feigns it all." In

some instances, it may be the case that many of the fits are feigned. But admitting this to be the fact, the cause is none the more revealed, for there must be a something lying back somewhere, which has deranged her system and weakened her mind; for no person with a healthy body and sound mind can ever feign disease or death, for the sake of sympathy.

Woman has been misunderstood — she has been called a mysterious being, because, in one hour excitement would carry her to the very climax of manifested joy and delight, and in the next, when re-action had taken place, she was sunk in deep depression and melancholy. True, woman is mysterious in her spiritual nature — in common with all humanity. But disease renders her so only because its operations are not understood.

The true cause of all this physical suffering, this derangement of the whole system, must be sought out, and the proper remedy applied. The question arises, what is that remedy that strikes at the root of woman's diseases, and removes the cause?

This, as we have said before, is found, and we think only found, in *Motorpathy*."

And pray what is *Motorpathy*?

COMMUNICATIONS.

BELLADONNA.

MR. EDITOR,—Dear Sir: Allow me to ask, "*Will belladonna prevent scarlet fever?*" The opinions of medical men are sometimes so various, and physicians of one school are so blind and deaf to the discoveries and improvements of another school, that an important truth is often in danger of oblivion from no other reason. It seems to be so with belladonna.

Little less than a century ago, the immortal Hahnemann showed to the world the prophylactic virtues of this plant against the contagion of scarlet fever.

From that time to this his disciples have made no secret of it, but have habitually used it, thus confirming his opinions by their own experience. The observations of Hahnemann have been verified in the country by physicians of the homœopathic school generally. And the prevalence of scarlet fever at the present time, begins to force upon the public mind the value of belladonna as a real prophylactic to scarletina.

For the last ten years I have made use of this medicine, in many cases, as a curative, and in all cases (where the occasion required) as a preventive; and I can now say, *with entire truth*, that I have never known an instance of the appearance of scarlet fever, among those to whom I had administered belladonna as a prophylactic, during exposure to the disease.

Very truly yours,

DAVID THAYER.

40 Beach st., Boston, Dec. 15th, 1856

FLOATING FACTS.

[Presuming these weekly columns of Floating Facts may be useful to those collecting materials for publications at a future period on physiological subjects,—medicine, surgery, chemistry, midwifery, and other branches of knowledge which belong to a course of professional reading,—we have adopted this plan of furnishing important matter in the fewest words.

In preparing lectures, writing communications for journals, either literary or scientific, an immense amount of matter for strengthening an argument, illustrating propositions, and giving an interest to a variety of topics within the legitimate range of medical studies, may be found in these paragraphs. They are useful for reference, and are certainly more or less instructive, independent of the pleasure derived from the facts they present. We therefore propose to continue this particular feature of THE MEDICAL WORLD, till a majority of its patrons request an alteration.]

Frenzy of Horses.—Horses are subject to uncontrollable fits of terror, and many incidents are remembered illustrative of this nervous sensibility. To horses thus seized, if in large numbers, and accustomed to military discipline, the effects are very terrible. In June, 1810, Colonel R. M. Johnson's regiment was stationed on a beautiful grass plain, near St. Joseph's. At midnight some of the horses grazing in the vicinity became alarmed, which instantly communicated itself to those belonging to the regiment, and the whole body united in solid columns, and commenced a whirlwind course around the camp. Incredible as it may seem, so compactly did they keep together in their fear, that the whole body of six hundred did not seem to occupy a space of more than forty by sixty yards. The moon was shining in full splendor, the camp was an open plain, and the scene presented was awfully sublime. At length the horses forced a passage through the lines, overset tents, carried away the fences, and were soon lost in the surrounding woods. Many were found the next day twenty and twenty-five miles distant, and all were more or less lamed, or otherwise injured by having their hind-legs cut by the feet of those crowding in the rear.

Tendency to Crime. — The actions of man are closely connected with the physical and moral circumstances under which he is placed. The greatest number of crimes against persons and property is among the inhabitants of river-banks. The period of the maximum of crimes against persons coincides with that which is the minimum against property, and is the summer season. As respects each individual, his tendency to crime is first against property, and this reaches its maximum at about twenty-five years of age, whereas the tendency to crime against persons commences later than that against property, and increases with the increase of strength. In crime, man, as he grows older, substitutes stratagem for force. If brought up in a liberal profession his tendency in crime is against persons, but that of the workman is against property. Elementary instruction, so far as reading and writing go, does not lead to the diminution, but rather to the increase of crime — a very important conclusion, more particularly in the United States, in many portions of which this kind of education is chiefly patronized by Government, to the exclusion, to a certain extent, of that which is of a higher grade, and which serves to correct this important defect.

As regards women, their tendency to crime, when compared with that of men, is as 23 to 100; at least this is the case in France. Their tendency to the perpetration of crimes against persons is less than that for crimes against property, in the proportion of 16 to 26. It is interesting to observe that the physical force of woman as compared with that of man is also as 16 to 26. From such considerations it may, therefore, be concluded that the morality of women is about the same as that of men, their physical feebleness and modesty being taken into account. In woman the maximum tendency for crime occurs at about thirty years, but then she relinquishes that disposition sooner than man. Her tendency to theft begins early, and lasts through life. When she desires to commit murder, she employs, by preference, poison. In this may be discerned the influence of her constitutional element, physical feebleness. Timid at explosions and at the sight of blood, if driven to the extremity of self-destruction she instinctively resorts to drowning. Women, like men, who are the residents of towns, are much less moral than those who live in the country. However, the passions are gratified in a manner that seems to be independent of religious profession. The open dissoluteness of one country is coun-

terpoised by the secret crime of another. Protestant England and Catholic France exhibit a striking illustration. In the former, in 1845, the number of illegitimates was 70 per 1000, of the whole number of children born; in France, it was about 71.

Yearly Food of One Man. — From the army and navy diet-scales of France and England, which, of course, are based upon the recognized necessities of large numbers of men in active life, it is inferred that about two and one-fourth pounds avoirdupois of dry food, per day, are required for each individual; of this about three-fourths are vegetable, and the rest animal. At the close of an entire year the amount is upwards of 800 pounds. Enumerating under the title of water all the various drinks — coffee, tea, alcohol, wine, etc. — its estimated quantity is about 1500 pounds per annum. That for the air received by breathing may be taken at 800 pounds. With these figures before us, we are able to see how the case stands. The food, water and air which a man receives, amount, in the aggregate, to more than 3000 pounds a year; that is, to about a ton and a half, or more than twenty times his weight. This enormous quantity may well attract our attention to the expenditure of material required for supporting of life. A living being is the result and representation of change on a prodigious scale.

Something New on Botany. — At a late meeting of the Linnean Society, of London, the President announced a new quarto of the Society's Transactions, as being nearly ready for publication, which will contain a long series of beautifully executed plates — several of them being colored illustrations of Dr. Hooker's elaborate memoir on the *Balanophææ*. A rare list of new additions was made to the library of that learned Society the past year.

Medicinal Flagellation. — In New York, Patrick McIntyre undertook to destroy his life by taking laudanum, and was conveyed by the police to a station house, where a physician attended, but gave up the case as hopeless. The police, however, were not satisfied, and sent for another physician. The latter stripped the patient, and with a leather belt flogged him until the blood came; with the blood also came the patient's senses, and strange to say, by this novel treatment he was completely recovered.

Oldest Man in America.—According to Mr. Ballou, Peter Nassau, a colored man, now a resident of Woodstock, Vermont, has reached the extraordinary age of one hundred and twenty-six years! This fact has been established by N. Haskell, Esq., town clerk of Woodstock, who has taken great pains in order correctly to trace out Peter's history. When quite young, he came as a gentleman's servant from Martinique, his native place, to Boston, but for many years past Woodstock has been his home. Peter Nassau is as well known in Vermont as the Green Mountains themselves. He is of a thin, spare frame, and is nearly bald, but his skin is remarkably smooth and unwrinkled. He has no son, but seven daughters, two of whom yet live in Woodstock, by which town he is supported. Go, however, where he will, and he is fond of wandering about, he always finds friends who are glad to give him food and shelter. His eyesight is still good, and his teeth remarkably sound for a man of his age. He converses freely, but, unlike most old men, is not garrulous. While he was sitting in the office of the Windsor House lately, some one asked him how many more winters he expected to see. "Ah!" said Peter, "if this yere house was offered to me all full of gold, I wouldn't 'cept it to live my days over again." It is almost certain that Peter Nassau is the oldest living man in America.

Mrs. Sarah Marsh, of Heath, Mass., is now in the 100th year of her age. Her hearing and eyesight are good. Her youngest child is 60, and she has a daughter 73. Five generations were recently assembled in her house.

A Centenarian.—The number of persons mentioned the present season who are living and who have died above the age of one hundred years, is a remarkable circumstance. Mrs. Alice Hinds died in the poor-house at Clonmel, Ireland, a week or two since, at the age of *one hundred and five years*. At New Orleans, Mrs. Courcy, a native of England, — 100. At Dunbrook, parish of Hollywood, county Wicklow, Ireland, at the advanced age of 113 years, Mr. M. Legro. He retained full possession of all his faculties to the last moment; and at an investigation lately held by order of the Court of Chancery in England, concerning the next of kin, which involved the disposal of many thousand pounds, his evidence, which he gave in the most clear and satisfactory manner, was most important. His health was excellent, and up to an hour before his death he never knew what it was to be sick.

New York Dispensaries.—Monthly report for November, 1856:

Patients treated during Nov. 1856.	At the Dispensaries.	At their Dwellings.	Total.	Adults.	Children under 15 years.	Vaccinated.	Prescriptions Dispensed.
New York Dispensary.....	2566	390	2956	2051	905	83	6961
Northern	399	288	827	434	393	73	2443
Eastern Dispensary	965	255	1220	682	538	101	2171
Demilt Dispensary	1058	257	1315	743	572	44	2346
North Western Dispensary	636	185	821	424	397	34	1431
Totals.....	5564	1375	7139	4334	2805	355	15372

Aggregate number to whom medical services and medicine were rendered gratuitously during the month of November: Males, 3,070; females, 4,075.

Nativity:—2,785 patients were born in the United States, and 4,354 in foreign countries.

Partial Results:—Sent to Hospital, 217; died, 64.

The principal causes of death were small-pox, pneumonia, consumption and scarlet fever.

Enormous Obesity.—On the 9th of November, Mr. James Mansfield expired, at the village of Debden, England, in his 82d year. He was an extraordinary character, for, though not above the ordinary height, he was of immense magnitude, measuring 9 feet round, and weighing 33 stones of 14 lbs. When sitting on his chair (made especially for his use 4 feet wide), his abdomen covered his knees and hung down almost to the ground. When he reclined, it was necessary to pack his head to prevent suffocation. About ten years ago he was exhibited at the Leicester square Rooms, London, as the "Greatest man in the world." He has also been exhibited in the country. A suit of clothes made especially for him, would comfortably button up four ordinary sized men. Mansfield was a butcher by trade, and at the time of his death was a hale old man, possessing a good constitution, and a sanguine and happy temperament.

Thomas C. McCarter, a man of mammoth size, died in Tennessee a few days since. His weight was 527 pounds, and he required a coffin 3 1-2 feet across the top, 28 inches deep, and 7 feet long.

Art and Science.—A New York photographer has made a very important contribution to medical science, by adapting photography to the representation of morbid internal appearances.

Provides for All.—So various are the appetites of animals, that there is scarcely a plant which is not chosen by some and left untouched by others. The horse gives up the water-hemlock to the goat; the cow gives up the long-leaved water-hemlock to the sheep; the goat gives up the monk's head to the horse, &c. Hence, no plant is absolutely poisonous. Thus the spurge, noxious to man, is most wholesome nourishment to the caterpillar. That animals may not destroy themselves for want of knowing this law, each of them is guarded by such a delicacy of taste and smell that they can easily distinguish what is pernicious from what is wholesome; and when it happens that different animals live upon the same plants, still one kind leaves something for the other, as the mouths of all are not equally adapted to lay hold of the grass, by which means there is food for all. To this may be referred an economical experiment well known to the Dutch, that when eight cows have been in pasture, and can no longer get nourishment, two horses will do very well there for some days; when nothing is left for the horses, four sheep will live upon it.

Human Growth.—With regard to the rate of growth, it is most rapid immediately after birth, and continually diminishes till about the fifth year. It then remains equable till about the sixteenth year, the average annual growth being a little over two inches. For the next two years it is an inch and a half, and for the following two one inch only. The greatest height correctly recorded was that of a Swedish body-guard of Frederick the Great—he was eight feet, three inches; the least, that of an individual, thirty-seven years old, whose height was sixteen inches. New-born boys are heavier than new-born girls; 20,000 of them weighed in one of the hospitals of Paris gave as an average six and one-fourth pounds. For about a week after birth the weight diminishes, owing to respiration. In their twelfth year boys and girls are of an equal weight. Men are the heaviest at about forty; women at about fifty.

Zoological Progress.—A lioness in Liverpool is raising three fine whelps, born there. Two of those born in Mr. Sears's collection in Boston, two months ago, were unfortunately killed by the male lion in the same cage with the mother. In jumping over her, while nursing, his great savage paws crushed two of his children, accidentally, to death.

Cultivation of Leeches.—An enterprising Frenchman and his associates have leased some extensive marshes in Ireland, and are stocking them with leeches, with an expectation of realizing a large profit. Seven millions of these medicinal blood-suckers, are said to be annually imported by three or four firms in London. The cost of the leeches used in France in a single year, is estimated to be from one to one million and a half of dollars.

Population of the Papal States.—A census has just been completed, and the number of human beings in the dominions of the church, are only 3,100,000. In the ten past years the increase was 300,000. Think of ancient Rome, under the Emperors, when the City of Rome alone contained about as many inhabitants as all the possessions of His Holiness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. Kane, the Arctic explorer, was in bad health, in England, when last heard from. He is very pale, much reduced in flesh, and has night sweats. His cough is alarming. His physician had enjoined him to leave for a warmer climate as soon as possible, and he was, accordingly, to sail for St. Thomas and Havana.

In Vincent Nolte's *Reminiscences of Fifty Years in Both Hemispheres*, who was in the battle of New Orleans, on the 8th of January, 1816, when Gen'l Jackson won imperishable renown for personal bravery, this fact is stated, on page 225:—Eighty American soldiers, after the battle, suffered amputation in the City Hospital, and not one died; while of eighty-one British prisoners who submitted to the same operation "*not one survived.*"

On Saturday a diseased breast was removed at the Massachusetts General Hospital, from a middle-aged woman, weighing five or six pounds, with a good prospect of permanent relief. Also, an operation for stricture of the urethra, in an aged man; and a third for the removal of hemorrhoidal tumors.

An asylum for drunkards, says report, is to be opened at Worcester, Mass.

A petition is about to be presented to the city government of Boston, by the physicians, for the establishment of a hospital for the poor.

The mortality the past week was unusually large, the number of deaths being 113. Forty of the deaths, or over one-third, were from scarlet fever, which is more prevalent and malignant in this city than ever before.

Every man who is the owner of a good horse, would derive both pleasure and profit from the American Veterinary Journal, conducted by Geo. H. Dadd, M. D., of Boston.

The venerable Dr. Mussey, of Cincinnati, has been elected Vice President of the American Vegetarian Society. The members eschew meats, and chew vegetables.

Dr. C. R. Broadbent, of Providence, R. I., is lecturing near Boston on physiology, before the people. What has become of those peripatetic teachers of anatomy and physiology who were in the habit, formerly, of lecturing to large audiences? Five hundred dollars for a single lecture in the Tremont Temple, is represented to have been received in fees for a single evening, such was the demand for that kind of knowledge in a popular form.

In the Photographic Portraits of Living Celebrities, now publishing in London, the fact is stated that Samuel Warren, author of *Ten Thousand a Year*, was originally destined for the medical profession. Before completing the study, he had seen enough of the sights which a practising physician sees in his daily rounds, to write the *Diary of a Physician*, which gave him so much fortune and fame that there appears to have been no necessity for his being admitted to practice medicine for a living.

London papers contain the advertisement of a man who proposes to sell his body for anatomical purposes — price not less than £10. His body is to be at the purchaser's disposal, whenever the advertiser dies. The purchaser, however, must bind himself to make a skeleton of the bones, by macerating the body in cold water, — being at liberty to prepare the soft parts to suit himself.

Lord Palmerston is said to have resolved to recommend to the Queen, to confer a pension of one hundred pounds a year on Dr. W. P. Alison, late professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh, in consideration of his distinguished services as a philanthropist and a man of science.

Joseph Morrin, M. D., has again been elected mayor of the city of Quebec. He is an eminent medical practitioner and one of the Government Commissioners of Insanity.

Dr. Elisha Huntington, President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, lost his election for the mayoralty in the late municipal election in Lowell, Mass.

The Miami Medical College is spoken of as prosperous. This is pleasant intelligence to its friends.

A ridiculous story is going the rounds of the papers of a medical student, who being refused by a young lady, sued her father for the visits he made her!

At Germantown, in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, an institution has been opened for the reception of idiotic children, and placed under the care of Dr. Joseph Parish. It is presumed to be similar to those in Massachusetts, — one of which is located in Boston, and the other in the town of Barre, and in the charge of Dr. Brown.

If it is true that "no physician ever really liked another, while living, or flattered any more than those they envied, when dead," Talleyrand's sayings were caustic aphorisms.

Mr. Ordway, the musical composer, accompanied by his group of Ethiopian minstrels, visited the insane at South Boston, a short time since, and sang some of their sweet airs to the maniacs. Most of them were delighted. One poor negro, however, was tremendously disturbed by the harmony, and expressed his positive dislike of the performance in unmistakable expressions.

A quarterly report of the Montreal Hospital, ending October 30th, shows 198 patients admitted, and 64 were already in at the commencement of the quarter, — making in all, 262. Deaths within the same period, 11; discharged, 196; remaining, 55. Total, 262. There were several interesting and successful surgical operations within the quarter.

A British soldier, of the 99th Regiment in Canada, was condemned to death, for administering *Croton Oil* with the intent to murder. The sentence has finally been commuted to five years in the Provincial Penitentiary.

Dr. Von Iffland, of Quebec, has been honored by having been elected a corresponding member of the Epidemiological Society, of London. The Medical Chronicle, of Montreal, says that the same gentleman is about being created a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, of which he has been a member many years.

R. Craik, M. D., has been appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in McGill College; and Alex. Long, M. D., Curator of the Museum of the same institution, in Montreal.

Small-pox is on the increase in various directions in the country, and begins to appear in several of the seaboard cities.

A jury of inquest held a session at Rouse's Point, over a body found in a barrel, which turned out to be that of a man who died of a disease of the heart, which a medical student

was attempting to transport into Canada for examination. Any one may dissect openly in Massachusetts, and be protected in it by the officers of the law.

In New Orleans they make the theatres assist in providing comforts for the sick poor. The Charity Hospital receives \$500 annually from each of them.

PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL WORLD.

In London several curious works on medicine and medical matters have recently emanated from the press:—

Companion of the Lying-In Room.

Allarton's Mysteries of Medical Life.

De la Rue's Medical Memorandum Book for 1857.

Laycock's Lectures on Medical Observations.

Reeve's Diseases of the Stomach.

Swayne's Obstetrical Aphorisms.

Flora of New Zealand, by Joseph D. Hooker, M. D. Magnificent and valuable, having 130 colored plates.

Practical Uses of Phrenology.

Criminal Lunatics — Are they Responsible? by J. R. Reynolds, M. D.

Nature and Treatment of Club-Foot, and analogous Distortions, by B. E. Broadhurst, Assistant Surgeon of the Royal Orthopedic Hospital.

Pathology of Stammering, by J. K. Ayres, M. D.

Pathology of Hooping-Cough, by G. Hewitt, M. D.

Druits' Surgeon's Vade Mecum, 7th edition, re-written, enlarged and improved, with 300 wood engravings.

John Hunter's Works, 4 vols., by Palmer.

Corrigan's Lectures on the Nature and Treatment of Fevers.

Sight-Seeing in Germany and the Tyrol, by John Forbes, M. D.

Exposition of the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy, by F. W. Montgomery, M. D.; a new and elegant edition.

Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Uterus, by J. H. Bennett, M. D., &c.

Diseases of the Vesiculæ Seminales, and their associated Organs, by M. Wilson, M. D.

Strictures of the Urethra, by Henry Thompson, M. D., &c.

Influence of Tropical Climates, by J. R. Martin, M. D.

American medical publications are not numerous of late. If better patronized, there would be more inducement for native authors.

The greatest field is opened for the sale of anatomical works; but there has been nothing new for so long a time, and orders are sent abroad for books that ought to be re-published extensively here to meet the increasing demand of the students of nearly forty city and provincial medical schools.

Twenty Months in the Andes, by Prof. S. H. Holton, of the chemical chair, &c., Middlebury College, Vt., will be interesting to naturalists and most medical men. The plants and animals of the region are described in full. The illustrations are copious, and aid materially in enabling the reader to learn many particulars respecting the manners and customs of the people, and various matters concerning their social life. The volume is worthy of special commendation for its full and complete index, in which particular it is in marked contrast with most works of the same class. It is to be had in New York through expressmen.

The expected work on Syphilis, by a physician of Boston, referred to some weeks since, will not be published, perhaps, before another year.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 24, 1856.

PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING. — An immense exhibition of horror is exhibited by those priding themselves on their professional respectability, when a member of the brotherhood, in good moral standing, notifies the public that he attends to any particular branch of practice. Various lofty expressions of astonishment that a man, pretending to the character of a gentleman, should make a descent so disreputable to himself and degrading to the profession are not of uncommon occurrence.

With a view to preventing derelictions of that heinous kind, by seasonably making it odious and a degradation to the individual, and also most dreadful to contemplate, as though it were a crime without a penalty, — various resolves and wise laws stand upon record, intended to act as a check-rein upon personal ambition.

If there is no parallelism between a merchant and a physician, in regard to the value of advertisements, it will be conceded without a demurrer, that both do more business by advertising. Is there any more moral turpitude in one case than in the other? Not a whit, to our apprehension.

Let us reason together, by commencing with substantial facts, which cannot be denied, and then look dispassionately at the results.

It is a law, aye, and one of the higher laws too, exceedingly admired of late by those who succeed best in turning it to their own advantage, that some individuals must, will, and do have an ascendancy over their fellow-beings. Wherever there are half a dozen physicians, one will become the presiding member over the other five, in an association. So it is where there are a hundred. His position is one that gives him notoriety, which is equivalent to an advertisement.

When a number of gentlemen are the officers of a large association, a State medical society for instance their names head the catalogue; they appear in various notifications, printed documents, &c., and in short, they are heralded far and wide, which is certainly making them favorably known, and patronage usually follows. They are each advertised in a way to gratify their ambition, without advertising themselves. The process is at the expense of the treasury.

These are the gentlemen who are strenuously opposed to advertisements. They discover in the custom, violence to the honor of the profession. Why have not some of them the independence, or at least magnanimity, to rise in their places and say, as they believe, it will divert away their customers?

Who would ever know that Mr. Palmer manufactures the best artificial leg ever constructed, if he did not advertise? How would the blind a thousand miles distant have had a knowledge of the oculists of the cities, without their advertisements?

Without unnecessarily multiplying examples, it must be admitted that the more quickly the community are advised of the intentions of a competent person who proposes to devote himself to a specific line of practice, the sooner he will have employment, and the sooner, too, will those in pursuit of the service rendered by a specialty, obtain the assistance required.

Notwithstanding the frowns and anathemas of fortunate individuals against those who go counter to their behests in this particular, medical advertisers, of a proper and modest description, of those who are regular, honorable, and enterprising, are singularly on the increase.

Have any ever withdrawn from medical associations, where they were in good standing, to be out of the reach of impeachments, or expulsions, on purpose to make fortunes by the exercise of a liberal profession, on which they were starving while under their surveillance?

Many years since, a fellow of a medical society asked a dismission, that he might embark in the sale of a quack preparation. He speedily amassed a fortune that no one would object to possessing, even were it from profits on the sale of the *Pulmonic Detergent*.

There was no necessity for returning to the old fold, when he had accomplished what he had proposed to himself: he had no desire to resume the practice of of medicine.

Has any remaining fellow refused to shake hands with that far-seeing gentleman? Has his wealth a bad odor in the nostrils of consistent sticklers for professional propriety? Who does not remember what the Emperor Vespasian said to his son Titus on a certain occasion, when the prince was in want of funds?

With an obstinacy worthy of a better cause, the Methodists of England resisted every proposition to introduce modern music into their worship, till Mr. Wesley declared that the devil had had all the good tunes long enough, and then the old walls gave way.

Besides doing a vast amount of good, a physician hopes, and he has a legal right to make an effort to secure something for old age, when he is no longer able to buffet the storm; but a melancholy proportion of the whole scarcely maintain their families. Every succeeding year is increasing the competition. By giving their whole attention to any one department, instead of riding extensively over creation and prescribing hurriedly for every abnormal condition of humanity, an apology is found for advertising, which neither compromises the profession or their own respectability. In the first position they get nothing; in the second, something.

Empirics are as wise as serpents, in gathering up more riches with a bogus pill in two years, than half the respectable physicians acquire in half a century; — and it is accomplished by advertising. Though wise as serpents, we regret to declare they are not as harmless as doves.

By gradual approaches, so cautiously drawn as not to excite immediate apprehension where the whole objection to advertising exists, — viz., with those who are afraid of losing whatever some one else may gain, — the daily papers, the covers of journals, and even modest circulars apprise the community that Dr. — has relinquished general practice, to give his exclusive attention to diseases of this or that organ; — another hereafter may be consulted in pulmonary affections; while a third prescribes for uterine diseases, &c., &c. These are so many evasions of the very spirit of the code of honor that may have been deprecated, for aught we know to the contrary, by those who have profited largely by such harmless, unobjectionable notifications.

Physicians, oculists, aurists, dentists, obstetricians, chemists, and those who confine themselves to the treatment of the lungs, the heart, the liver, the skin, the throat, or any other special system of practice, have a perfect right to announce it, and the public as well as themselves are mutually benefited by the intelligence. It is now a custom in cities, which is constantly on the increase.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MICHIGAN. — From present appearances, it is destined to become immensely large. It is so rich in lands that the faculty are paid out of the rents, and the students pay nothing. The system of instruction is of the highest order. He is a fortunate man who holds a professorship in that insti-

tution. When a few quarter sections of land were set apart by the government, for the support of schools and colleges, in the early settlement of some of the western territories, no one imagined they would become so exceedingly valuable in less than forty years.

DEMAND FOR NOSTRUMS.— Immensely large warehouses in all the principal cities of the United States are stored with all imaginable preparations for mitigating human sufferings; and the vast capital employed in this branch of trade, which at no period will yield a better profit than at the present moment, throws ordinary mercantile operations quite into the shade.

Very few if any of the large importing firms have ever accumulated fortunes by the regular processes of trade, in a long life of enterprising commercial activity, or amassed such prodigious estates as one or two bold pill makers, sarsaparilla manufacturers, and hair restoratives venders have retired upon in the short time of five, six and ten years. Philadelphia and New York possess the stateliest edifices in the world for carrying on these extraordinary plans for botching up frail humanity. And stranger still, notwithstanding a perpetually increasing demand for these various secret, mis-called remedies, not one of them possesses a single reliable property. Those who take them are in the end made worse, instead of better by them.

Take this astounding fact in connection with another, that men of the first medical distinction, in whom the public repose unlimited confidence, have never omitted warning the people of the danger incurred by patronizing those unknown mixtures from irresponsible sources, by lecturing, writing, and exhortations in season and out of season, without having stopped the sale of a single box of Brandreth's pills, or a phial of Davis's Pain Killer, since the batteries of scientific indignation opened the first broadside. A mortifying result. — but it is too true to be denied. That is not all. Resolutions solemnly promulgated under the authority of grave societies; appeals to the understanding, and a portrayal of the awful consequences that must inevitably follow, sooner or later, from the destructive effects of nostrums, have never weighed a feather, influenced a single mind, or retarded the wheels of this most profitable of all trades.

If the ignorant, the underwitted and unconscious were the victims of patent medicines, we should have some hope of reaching that class of minds at last, by unceasing appeals and unrelaxing labor in developing their sensorial powers. But the patrons are the educated; the rich — the knowing ones; and the clergy everywhere give the weight of their clerical influence, without stint, by an array of certificates that must provoke the proprietors to laugh in their sleeves.

Physicians have certainly been on the wrong track in their hostility. The masses entertain an opinion that their warnings are nothing more nor less than exhibitions of selfishness, — which in rude

language simply means, their own craft is in danger. Legislation has availed nothing, and it never will. People delight in this perverse mode of medication. Have it they will. The national appetite is hereditarily strong for this kind of food, hence any further attempts to deprive the people of their regular rations of medicine, unless prescribed by a physician, must be abortive.

It would be an exciting scrap of medical intelligence to know whether educated medical gentlemen are ever interested in the nostrum trade. Where is the remedy? That is the question. Can a check ever be given to the manufacture and sale of quack medicines?

PEDANTIC USE OF TECHNICAL LANGUAGE.— A plain, unostentatious learned man, is consistent in every thing. He never opens his mouth for the utterance of technicalities in the presence of those who would not understand their meaning, for the sake of astonishing vulgar minds. The real medical lights of the present day are distinguished for their simplicity of manners and conversation.

It is one of the frailties of young medical practitioners, occasionally, to be exceedingly voluble in the use of immensely hard words. In the company of their peers, it is proper enough; but even then it is in bad taste. That the uneducated mistake sound for substance, is susceptible of proof, and hence, to save one's self from ridicule in a circle of superiors, no thing is lost by a prudent use of language.

Wit, harmlessly displayed, is always relished. Some persons, unwilling to acknowledge their ignorance, assent to propositions as absurd as possible. A silly fellow, prodigiously excited, ran to a clergyman and told him there were spots on the sun, and he believed the world was coming to an end.

"Oh, don't be afraid," said the good minister, "it's nothing but a phantasmagoria."

"Is that all?" said the frightened man, and went away quite relieved.

The principle is amusingly illustrated in another instance, where a lawyer is represented to have lost a suit for a client, who had high expectations of triumphant success. But it went against the honest man. Addressing Mr. Pettifogger very earnestly,

"I thought you told me we should certainly gain that suit."

"So I did," answered the lawyer, "but you see when I brought it up there before the judges, they said it was *quorum non judice*."

"Well, if they said it was as bad as that," replied the old farmer, "I don't wonder we lost it," and he paid the costs and a fee besides, without another murmur.

When a young physician announced to an anxious husband that his wife was actually *in articulo mortis*, the disconsolate man's fountain of tears was instantly assuaged, and he thanked the good doctor for such comforting intelligence; "for I certainly thought," said

he, "before that great word was spoken, she was dying."

When students of medicine first commence their professional studies, they mistake long, almost unpronounceable names of muscles, like *Crico-Arytenoideus-Posticus*,—*Levator-Labii-Superioris-Alaeque-Nasi*, or *Flexor-Ossis-Metacarpi-Pollicis*, for knowledge. When terms call up ideas, the object of them in language is attained; but the babbling of unmeaning words for effect, is intolerable. Model writers of text books should resort to the technicalities belonging to the branch to which their attention is given. Precision requires it. Anatomy could not be taught without its present nomenclature; no, nor chemistry. So of professors: it is their special province to teach the principles confided to the chair each one occupies, and in accordance with those who preceded them,—always expressing the subject in those particular terms which science requires to give a full and exact expression of the thought intended.

Under other circumstances, in the ordinary intercourse with society, any exhibition of professional terms, with well-bred people, is disgusting, and in the estimation of an accomplished physician, absurd.

CHRONIC PERITONITIS—EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

—Some weeks since the following account was received, which is worth placing on medical record. It appears to have been at the onset beyond the reach of beneficial medication, and remarkable for the extensive morbid condition of the lining membrane of the abdominal cavity.

Gilbert Trass, of Fayetteville, N. Y., died a few days since under peculiar circumstances, and a large number of the medical profession attended the post-mortem examination. It appears that about a year since Trass complained of a fullness about the stomach, which was more disagreeable than painful. This never left him, although he went about his usual business, enjoying, with exceptions, apparent health.

About the first of April he was taken with vomiting after eating. He now soon began to exhibit symptoms of dropsy, and about the first of May was tapped, and some 12 or 14 pounds of water, mixed with bile and blood, removed. He soon refilled, and in about three weeks another 14 pounds of water was removed. A short time previous to this the entire surface of the body became yellow. Baffling the skill of his physicians, the disease went on with rapid strides, and the present comfort of the patient required that he should the third time have the water removed, which was done about ten days since, this time there being more blood and a constant hicough. The post-mortem revealed the following: Entire peritoneum inflamed, and thickly studded with a gelatinous substance, varying in size from that of a small pea to that of a walnut. The liver slightly enlarged, stomach much diminished in capacity, its coats five or six times their natural thickness, and capable of containing not much more than five or six ounces. The greater curvature

of the stomach was imbedded in, and firmly adherent to, a large mass of diseased omentum, which formed a perfectly distinct tumor, extending from the spleen across the stomach and liver, occupying nearly one third of the entire cavity of the abdomen:—spleen slightly enlarged, pancreas entirely concealed in the omental tumor; kidneys normal. The intestines were obstructed by numerous hard bodies, which presented the same appearance as the tumor. In the tumor was found a cyst containing about three ounces of fluid the same in appearance as that in the cavity of the abdomen. The gall bladder was enormously distended and its duct firmly compressed by a portion of the tumor. The disease was chronic peritonitis, and remarkable for the absence of pain, and its insidious progress to a fatal termination.

MEDICAL MONUMENT. — A correspondent of the Transcript, some time since, writing from New York, communicated the following intelligence, which is good news, and shows that a sense of gratitude for faithful professional services is recognized in that city, although utterly unknown in some others.

"It is pleasant to know that a tribute of melancholy admiration and respect has, at length, been paid, in this busy and utilitarian city, to a class of public benefactors too little recognized and too soon forgotten. I allude to the patient and self-devoted young men who annually fall victims to infectious disease, contracted by attendance at the hospitals. The chasms thus made in the ranks of our young physicians are filled up only to be renewed by the same noble self-sacrifice. It is honorable to the profession that martyrs are never wanting in this sphere of Christian benevolence; but it is a reflection on our common nature, that they pass away so comparatively unhonored, while military and political heroes are canonized by funeral display and eulogistic obituaries. From a marble yard in Broadway, a striking object presents itself to the careless eyes of the plodders and the butterflies of that crowded thoroughfare, in the shape of a tablet, on which, in freshly-cut letters, appear the names of fourteen young medical students who have, within a brief period, thus died at their posts of wearisome, hazardous and gratuitous duty. It is a precedent worthy of record and of praise."

With respect to the items below, the screws are turned too far, and the result will be that no returns of a reliable character can be expected. Pay the doctors, Mr. Corporation, for the information. A laborer is worthy of his hire.

"While on the subject of medical interests, it is a curious fact that this same class of public servants, whose labors are so incessant, and whose remuneration is so precarious, have recently been made the subjects of a very exacting municipal law in Gotham, requiring them to send the authorities monthly returns of births and deaths which occur under their observation and practice, with a penalty of thirty dollars for each

omission. The regulation is a good one, and should been forced; but it seems rather hard that a class already victimized by inadequate laws against quackery, and constant demands for gratuitous service, should be thus made accountable, without fee or reward, and with the imposition of so heavy a fine in case of neglect. The fact is, a really honest New York physician—one that is conscientious, scientific, above tricks of trade, loyal to self-respect and professional dignity and a gentleman—is the least appreciated ornament and blessing of Gothamite civilization."

MEDICINE TAKING.—It is generally admitted that giving large doses of medicine is productive of serious injury to the patient. Of course the quantity must bear some kind of relation to the evil it is intended to remove; the age, sex, disease for which it is prescribed, and various other circumstances which are grouped together in the physician's mind. But the quantity given by some practitioners forty and fifty years ago, compared with the elegant prescriptions of these refined days of medical inquiry, are quite amazing.

There is a danger of erring on the other extreme, in not giving enough by the old school of allopathists, since the homœopathic system has become so generally popular.

Some of the most successful physicians in New-England have been those who gave but little medicine. The great point is to know when not to give it at all.

Had it not been for excessive medications by the physicians in their ordinary practice, homœopathy never would have been so ardently patronized. It has now become a permanency, and modified the views of its opponents, and the old evil also of overdosing.

DRUG INSPECTION.—When the American Medical Association proposed to the government an inspection of imported drugs and medicines, the object was creditable to the humanity of the profession, who hoped in that way to arm themselves with reliable materials for managing diseases. Beyond question, it was expected in connection with the enactment of the law, that men eminently qualified for the office in different parts would be appointed.

What eminent qualifications have any of the incumbents possessed, from the first inspector to the last? Have they been particularly skilled in their knowledge of materia medica or pharmacy? Which has most influenced the appointing power, politics or eminent qualifications?

Both druggists and physicians can speak for this part. Perhaps other cities have had inspectors who were members of the Association. Are medicines any better in quality than before the inspection law was known? What guaranty has the poor, cheated public, that whatever passes a satisfactory inspection is not adulterated in the hands of the wholesale purchaser?

LUNATICS IN GREAT BRITAIN.—The number confined in asylums, hospitals, and licensed houses is somewhat startling in amount. There are in asylums, including private patients as well as paupers, 6298 males and 7525 females; in hospitals, 791 males and 837 females; in metropolitan licensed houses, 1105 males and 1486 females; and in provincial licensed houses, 1386 males and 1225 females; making a total of male and female lunatics so confined of 20,640. In addition to this large number there are 559 lunatic criminals, of whom 438 are males and 121 females.

The increase of lunatics in New England, independently of the other States, is calculated to excite inquiry into the causes. Politics, unsettled religious views, and a meddling disposition to make all the world do right, according to the unhappy individual's standard of right; together with his disappointment in not accomplishing the determined object that occupies the mind of the one-idea man, are among the productive sources of madness.

PRICES OF MEDICAL BOOKS.—Were publishers and those who advertise medical works to append the prices, by the dozen volumes, single and for cash down, or six months' credit, it would particularly oblige those who are the patrons of such publications. Practitioners located far in the interior would sometimes purchase several copies, and distribute them to remote acquaintances, if they had any guide to predicate an order upon. They would oftener send by expressmen and through the mail for newly announced treatises, were the cost given in advertisements. Correspondents not unfrequently write to ascertain this point. This may be considered a trivial matter, but when it is recollected that books are made to sell as well as read, it is a pity not to place them under circumstances most favorable for a market. Why are not the recent works to be had in Boston?

COFFEE CARRIERS OF BRAZIL.—Colored men are the beasts of burden in Brazil. They do their work, according to Mr. Ewbank, on the trot, with a load of 160 pounds of coffee on their shoulders. But the poor creatures are short-lived—seldom exceeding ten years in that particular labor, after once commencing it. They are very frequently ruptured in consequence of carrying such enormous burdens, of which they die. Negroes also carry coal, stone—and in fact take the place of horses, mules, and donkeys, in the city of Rio. Hence they become the worst of cripples in early life. Mr. Ewbank saw a wretched black whose thighs curved so far outward that his trunk was within fifteen inches of the ground; and several whose knees crossed each other, which set the feet preternaturally apart, as if a superincumbent weight had pushed the knees in instead of out. He saw some whose bodies had settled down very low, so that their legs were parallel at an angle of thirty degrees.

PREVENTING MISTAKES IN GIVING MEDICINE.

—Mr. Wood, 31 Tremont street, Boston, whose establishment has an appearance to inspire confidence, in view of the fatal mistakes sometimes made in taking the wrong medicine when brought from the apothecary's, has adopted the rule recently introduced in the larger European cities, and will in future dispense all medicines intended for internal use, in round bottles; and all for external use, in square bottles; and all medicines of a poisonous or dangerous nature, in a square bottle with a bright red label; thus adding to the convenience of the physician and the safety of the public.

This is a local precaution, quite necessary in a large city, where a multitude of persons would be influenced by the shape of a phial, who could not read a label. Perhaps others may consider the precautionary measure of this kind of sufficient importance, either to copy it, or propose something better. Life is so precious that those who dispense medicines ought to be gratified with any proposition that lessens the liability to mistakes. Mr. Wood's plan is simple and sufficiently marked to be understood and remembered by a child.

RENOUARD'S HISTORY OF MEDICINE. — Has a copy of the translated work, published by Messrs. Moore, Wiltach, Keyes & Co. of Cincinnati, ever been on sale in Boston? We opine not, from the circumstance that no one in the circle of every day medical acquaintance has seen it.

Boston is a choice market for treatises on medicine, surgery and their natural appendages, even including biographical and historical volumes which relate to medical men and medical times and literature; and yet it seems to be singularly overlooked. If it is an object to print them, the next purpose must be to sell. Many excellent professional books remain in the proprietor's loft, unseen and unknown, simply because a bold effort to have them extensively known is not attempted. Renouard's instructive labor is an example. It might live, but if it is not placed in a proper focus, death will follow. The publishers of medical works might sell a dozen volumes where they scarcely dispose of one in the ordinary routine of trade.

FASHIONABLE MEDICINES. — Certain articles of the *materia medica* come into fashion and go out again — like the cut of our garments. There is a natural desire to make progress in everything. If a certain drug will accomplish a cure in a day, for which some other remedy required three, why the old one should be laid aside. On the other hand, if half or the hundredth part of such a dose as we have been accustomed to prescribe brings about the desired result in less time and more effectually, common sense demands that we should abandon the old and trust to the new discovery. Medicines are, therefore, alternately fashionable or unfashionable, according to the actual advances made in medical science.

MEDICAL ORTHODOXY. — Incredible as it may appear, there is a remnant still in existence of that very obstinate, opinionated class of physicians who would on no account have any progress made in the profession. They would have every new book an exact copy of such as are considered authority by themselves. Any departure from the ancient landmarks is unpardonable. It is with extreme reluctance they read an article in a journal which emanates from a person under seventy, because they have no confidence in young men. New remedial agents are still more objectionable. Neither Cullen nor Benjamin Bell used them. As for physiology, no importance whatever is attached to it. Nerves and blood-vessels are for something; but beyond the fact of their usefulness in the animal organization, nothing more is tolerated. The age is too fast, too prone to fine-spun theoretical speculations, and too regardless, for them, of those solid foundations on which our medical forefathers erected the temple of medical science in America.

TURKISH HOSPITAL PREPARATIONS. — In the late war with Russia, the Turkish government was egregiously imposed upon and cheated by a set of knaves called contractors, who do the same thing in England and the United States, but they do not escape punishment in every instance so easily as among the believers in the mission of the Prophet.

A contract was completed by the Sultan for medicines and surgical instruments to be sent to Erzeroum for the use of his troops. In accordance with a shameful practice, quite common in that country as it is in Russia, the contract was let out and sub-let till its actual execution fell into the hands of a Jew. Of course there would be a cheat. When the cases were opened, the medicines were found to be stale, worthless drugs, — part of a stock, no doubt, of a bankrupt dealer; while the surgical instruments, on which much dependence was placed, turned out to be several hundred bungling contrivances for extracting milk from the broken breasts of women!

FANATICAL TENDENCIES. — There are sections of country in Asia Minor and in the United States, according to travellers, in which the inhabitants are in an undue exaltation. They wish everybody to believe precisely what they do. If they could, they would set in the pillory, or send to the house of correction, every man who dared assert an opinion not approbated by their own infallible judgment. When such persons take the bit between their teeth, to use a term of the menage, fanaticism is rampant. The last reform proposed is the all-absorbing idea with a fanatical mind. It revels in opposition — because by calling it persecution, they hope to gain both sympathy and proselytes. How many would glory in a revival of the Salem witchcraft excitement!

BEARD OR NO BEARD.—Nature had a specific object in view in giving man a beard; but the puzzle has been, and still is, to ascertain her precise intentions. Those who never had any are quite as bright, learned, brave, discreet, and good, as those who wear it hanging down to their waistbands. There have been as many philosophers, divines, and great characters who shaved in these latter days, as before the invention of razors.

In the absence of all law upon the subject, excepting in Austria, where the court has something to say about moustaches, an opinion prevails that brainless individuals cannot conceal their mental defects by an unshorn face; nor a fool transform himself into a sage, by cropping his beard like men of sense. So the subject still remains open for discussion.

FRICTION OF MIND.—Since it has become common for everybody to participate in the excitements of the day, — and there are just four subjects about which men and women take apparent pleasure in quarrelling, viz., politics, religion, law-suits, and money, — nervous complaints have multiplied beyond the ameliorating domain of medicine. The globe will revolve on its axis once in twenty-four hours, and no angry or boisterous conventions can possibly change either the order of nature or the tendencies of civilization. It is lamentable that thousands should die annually of friction of mind, from not being able to govern instead of being governed.

SHAKER PREPARATIONS OF MEDICINAL PLANTS.—At Canterbury, N. H., and Groton, Mass., the Shakers put up immense quantities of plants in esteem for their medicinal properties. And they excel all other manufacturers in that line, by the care bestowed upon them in the selection, drying, and packing. Their articles are precisely what they represent them to be, and hence the druggists and apothecaries are now quite dependent upon them for all those approved of in American dispensaries. This shows the value of a good reputation.

MARRIAGES.

In London, Emanuel Page, M.D. to Miss J. C. Keate.
John Dixon, M.D. to Miss E. Baker.

G. Selvia Morris, M.D., M. R. C. S. to Miss E. Mackreath.

George Long, Esq. to Miss Rosa H., daughter of Archibald Bell, M.D.

J. A. Marston, M.D. to Miss A. A. Webb.

In Sacramento, California, Dr. James G. Connor, to Miss A. E. Harkness.

Wm. H. Willis, M.D., of South Reading, Mass., to Miss S. C. Gates.

HEAT IS.

Dr. Thomas Ivers Parker, an old and well known physician of this city, died at his residence in Mason

street, on the 10th inst., of paralysis, at the advanced age of seventy-two years and eight months. He was a son of Right Reverend Samuel Parker, Bishop of the Diocese, and was born in Bedford street, hardly a stone's throw from the place of his death. He spent his long life as a bachelor. He was a graduate of Harvard University of the class of 1803, of which there are now but three living, viz.: Dr. Ezra Eaton, Hon. James Savage, and Rev. Samuel Willard of Deerfield.

At Newport, R. I., Dr. E. P. Grosvenor, a physician of extensive practice. He died suddenly, of a disease of the heart.

In Boston, Mrs. Cole, wife of Dr. Wm E. Coale, and daughter of the late Dr. Oliver, author of an excellent work on Physiology.

At Marblehead, Mass., Dr. James C. Briggs, an able and experienced physician, of the highest respectability. He was one of the connecting links between the old and new generation of medical practitioners. His death will be deeply deplored by the people who knew his worth.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 13.

Anna Ware 26 years, Ellen Cokely 31 do., John Quinn 53 do., Ann Reynolds 26 do., Sarah Cotton 30 do., Barbara Seber 20 do., Isaac E. Ferrin 3 do., Mary J. Folkes 64 do., Jonathan Whitnev 52 do., Mary J. Boner 3 do., Charles Giles 14 do., Wm. Toner 19 do., John Healy 31 do., Mary Brown 56 do., Mary Fitzgerald 3 do., Roland Bland 12 mos., Theresa A Miller 2 do., Mary J. Johnson 22 do., Emily Bennett 17 do., Mary E. Anderson 12 do., Mary J. Squires 2 do., Julia McGrath 10 ds., Honora Murphy 35 years, Michael Mulligan 48 do., James Fannel 2 do., Wm. Hollis 50 do., Daniel H. Brainard 5 do., Jeremiah Seanlan 35 do., Joseph F. Carroll 10 mos, Maria Rounds 1 day, Thomas Bartlett 89 years, Franklin P. Norton 3 do., Jane Wigglesworth 82 do., Benjamin Patterson 47 do., Hattie L. Weiberbee 9 do., Alex. S. Barlow 8 do., Elizabeth Hassett 38 do., Mary O'Connell 40 do., John Moore 6 do., Wm. M. Smith 21 do., Francis C. Partridge 4 do., Betsey G. Robbins 60 do., Alice Sheehan 28 do., Timothy Driscoll 40 do., Thos. G. Moses, jr., 8 do., Ida J. Waldron 3 do., Robert J. Allen 12 mos., James Drummond 5 do., Wm Blevins 16 do., Betsey V. Martin, 45 years, Bridget McBride 23 do., Mary Ann Mee 4 do., James McDonough 4 do., Owen McAnally 46 do., Emma C. Savage 5 do., Thomas J. Parker 73 do., Martha Wheeler 23 do., Timothy McHugh 51 do., Eliza Sutton 52 do., John Hewes 22 do., Ellen Kelly 65 do., Mary Magner 36 do., Patrick Ahern 2 do., Ellen Roberts 30 do., Charles Cokely 6 mos., Mary A. Bluit 5 do., Thos. McLean 24 days, Frank E. Hall 21 do., child of—Roach 14 do., Cornelius Collins 16 mos, Morris Loring 4 do., Roderick Campbell 30 years, Honora Hannan 37 do., Maria O'Brien 18 do., Rose Murray 3 do., Geo. Dudley 2 do., George Whipple 33 do.

DISEASES.—Disease of bowels 3, congestion of brain 4, consumption 17; croup 4, dropsy in head 2, infantile diseases 4, unknown diseases 2, typhoid fever 3, scarlet fever 14, disease of heart 6, inflammation of lungs 2, teething 3; other diseases 1 each, 13; total 77. Born in United States 52, Ireland 21, Germany and North of Europe 2.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

DECEMBER 31, 1856.

NUMBER 14.

COUNT CAGLIOSTRO.

If any one chance to be unacquainted with the general character of this personage, he may learn something of it from the following pithy summary of his titles, given by Thomas Carlyle:—

Count Alexandro Cagliostro, pupil of the sage Athlotas, foster-child of Scherif of Mecca, probable son of the last king of Trebizond; named also Acharat, an unfortunate child of Nature; by profession a healer of diseases, abolisher of wrinkles, grand-master of the Egyptian masonic lodge of high science, spirit-summoner, gold-cook, grand Coptha, prophet, priest, and thaumaturgic moralist and swindler; really a liar of the first magnitude, thorough-paced in all the provinces of lying, what one may call the *king of liars*. The man who so comported himself in life as to merit these titles—and not one of them is inappropriately or unjustly applied—must have in his time played many parts, from the contemplation of which may result both instruction and entertainment.

In the year 1743, Joseph Balsamo first saw the light, being born of poor parentage, resident at Palermo in Sicily. Left under the weak control of a widowed mother, the youth showed an unruly and indolent disposition in his earliest years, and greatly neglected even the scanty educational advantages which were afforded him. In his fifteenth year, a circumstance occurred, which, in part, gave the tone to his whole future existence. An uncle got him placed in the convent of Castegirone, where the house-apothecary was charged with the task of instructing him in the arts of chemistry and pharmacy. Idle as he continued to be, he no doubt acquired here some little knowledge of these sciences, and we shall see what use he finally made of it. After some years' stay, he grossly insulted the monks of the convent, was consequently punished, and

quitted the place forever; leaving those behind to congratulate themselves on his happy ridance. Joseph Balsamo, now nearly in his majority, passed the few succeeding years of his life in Palermo, acquiring by degrees the reputation of being one of the most finished blackguards in the place, and fully deserving it by robbing his uncle, forging a will, and many similar acts. At length he used his address to persuade a certain foolish goldsmith that a large treasure, to be obtained by digging, lay hidden in a cave nigh the city, and on their going at midnight to the spot, Balsamo brought out on the dupe a band of accomplices dressed like fiends, who robbed the poor man, and beat him cruelly. The goldsmith, having his eyes fully opened, threatened to retort with the Sicilian vengeance of the stiletto, and Joseph thought it necessary to take himself off from his native Palermo.

With the lion's share of the booty, sixty ounces of gold, Balsamo proceeded to Mesina, where he met an alchemist named Althotas, a man versed in various mysterious secrets of nature, and an adept in the Eastern tongues. The career of our hero in connection with Althotas is buried in doubt and obscurity, his own statements in after days being anything but trustworthy, or even consistent. The common statement is, that finding Althotas to be possessed of a secret for making goods, out of flax, of an almost silken quality, Balsamo persuaded him to try a commercial venture to Alexandria, with a store of that commodity. The voyage was eminently successful. It is probable that they visited Egypt and Turkey after this time, selling drugs and amulets. From the stories afterwards told by our hero, when, dropping his real origin, he let out ambiguous hints of his being some unfortunate Oriental prince, it is possible that he also visited Mecca and Medina. A visit to Malta is better substantiated. He was well received by the grand-master, and, with his companion, labored there for some months at the task of

making pewter into gold. It is also said that Althotas died in Malta. Be these things as they may, certain it is that, during the mysterious years of his life, now under notice, the Palermitan was fitting himself most diligently and successfully for his final career; and that, at the close of his probation, he appeared alone in Rome to commence a new era of his history.

It must not be thought that Balsamo had been all this time contented with his ill-savored, untitled patronymic. He had been a chevalier, a marquis, and six or seven different barons in succession, just as it suited him. Count Alexandro Cagliostro was the title which he bore on entering Rome, and it became his permanent one. He at first contrived to live by selling pen-drawings (forged ones, moreover, being merely engravings Indian-inked); but this was a poor occupation, and he speedily gave larger scope to his genius. He commenced the sale of an *elixir* for warding off old age and disease, and further boasted that he could *transmute metals* and make himself *invisible*. The Maltese grand-master had given him good letters of introduction. These admitted him to society, where his boundless boasting and indomitable assurance impressed some with a conviction of his magic powers. The elixir sold abundantly, and his success tempted a beautiful Roman, Lorenza Feliciani, to share his rising fortunes. Witty, unscrupulous, and fascinating, Lorenza was an admirable partner for Cagliostro, who speedily made her an adept in all his pretended mysteries. The worthy pair now sought a wider sphere for their combined attacks on the European purse. They opened their career by going to Westphalia on a visit to Count St. Germain, the great quack of the preceding generation, whose character is settled by one fact; he called himself 2000 years old! Cagliostro, no doubt, inhaled much goodly knowledge from this personage; and, for the next three years, Venice, Madrid, Cadiz, Lisbon, and, in fact, the greater part of Europe, enjoyed the advantage thereof. Travelling usually in a four-horse carriage, with the lovely countess by his side, and a host of couriers and beef-eaters before and behind, all in Parisian liveries, the great count entered in succession the cities of the continent, recommended to the high-born of one place by those whom he had left in another to awaken at leisure from their dream of eternal youth. Arrived, he fixed himself in some splendid hotel, and showed a full and open purse. Man and wife soon addressed themselves to business. For ladies, he had lotions beyond

all that the imagination could conceive; and for faded gentlemen of quality, he had a wine of Egypt, and other potions, washes, and charms innumerable. It may be thought that princes and nobles would be apt to deem it degrading in a count to sell things for money like a common quack-salver. No such thing. The count, generous man, never got his own money for them. He travelled the world to do good; and how readily would he give the precious drugs for nothing, were it not that they were brought from afar at a great expense! Much of this he himself really defrayed; but to reimburse him in a small degree he is forced to take — a consideration. The poor he visited gratis. Thus ran the tale and practice of the arch-quack.

Cagliostro and his countess were not always pampered, however, in fortune's coach-and-four. Sometimes their stores ran low; and on unwisely attempting to figure in the eyes of old friends at Palermo, the count was sent to jail by the revengeful goldsmith. He had the address to induce a Sicilian prince to interfere, and he was freed. Then, again, we hear of Cagliostro, in London, in the obscure character of a common painter, and bearing the plain title of Signor Balsamo. This was in 1772. He returned to the continent, and must again have climbed the ladder of fortune; for we find him once more in England, in 1776, with a stock of £3000. The count here commenced as usual with his elixir and philosopher-stone annunciations; but it was necessary to the success, both of himself and of his help-mate, that they should obtain access to society. A false friend undertook this task, and introduced them to mock lords and ladies, by whom, ere long, the arch-plunderer was plundered of all his means. A prison was the end. The count gained his freedom, however, and left the uncongenial air of England. Yet the visit was not thrown away, far from it. He had been initiated into some obscure masonic lodge, and the most brilliant idea of his life struck him in consequence, — the idea of the "Grand Egyptian Lodge of Masonry," of which who was so fit as himself to become the head, or, as he called himself, the Grand Coptha? As for the female lodges, again, who so well-fitted for the "Grand Priestessship" as the fair Lorenza?

Full of this new order, the count recommenced his career on the continent. The reputé of the wonderful Egyptian mason, who knew all the secrets of the brotherhood from the time of its institution by "Enoch and Elias," soon flew

abroad. Mr. Carlyle, to whom we are indebted for part of our information, describes the quack as having been received with loud shouts under steel arches; as holding three-hour discourses on all things fittingly unintelligible, and as founding Egyptian lodges in all manner of places with ceremonials of such a dark, death's-head description, that it makes one's hair stand on end merely to read of them.

The elixirs now sold at a double quick rate; and in consideration of the enormous expenses of the Grand Coptha, in correspondence and the like, the money flowed into his coffers in full streams.

Passing in splendor from place to place, the count visited Warsaw, and finally Strasburg. Here he met the greatest of his prizes, — the Prince de Rohan — first peer of France, and Cardinal Archbishop of Strasburg, rich as Croesus, and gullible to excess. Knowing well his man, the count at first wrapt himself in reserve, while he at the same time gained a character by liberally dispensing medicine (bread-pills, possibly) to the poor, and even showing them now and then his purse. Prince de Rohan sought an interview again and again; he was refused. His anxiety grew greater, and at length he was indulged. At once he became an obedient dupe, and his purse was emptied freely — in payment, chiefly, for the profound predictions which Cagliostro gave the Cardinal to serve in guiding him in all his affairs.

This period, 1783, may be called the brightest in the career of Cagliostro, whose reputation was now European. He was asked by the Prince de Rohan to go to Paris, and went; but he stayed at this time only a few days, being anxious to drain a little further the good people of Strasburg. But the enthusiasm was past, and he found it advisable to try Bordeaux. Here, for the period of a year, he was so eminently successful in magical and elixir practice, that the authorities at one time granted him a guard to keep his doors clear. Bordeaux exhausted, he thought fit to quarter himself on Paris. It might have been expected that he would have shrunk from exposing his magical pretensions to the eyes of the Parisian savans. Not he. He there openly professed his ability to transmute metals; and, by handicraft deceptions, he practically convinced the unwary and silly. He — when well paid for it, for the dead would not rise for nothing — called up *spirits*, though they seem not to have been seen, but merely to have spoken to him from under glass bells. The countess supported him ably in all these deceptions.

But Cagliostro suddenly fell in this very zenith of his glory, and fell irrecoverably. Happening to be somewhat involved in the celebrated necklace case of Maria Antoinette, when one of the queen's servants named La Motte, forged her mistress's name, Cagliostro, as well as La Motte and Rohan, was thrown into the Bastille. On being brought to trial, he told lies of the most astounding magnitude as to his birth and resources, averring for one thing that he was constantly supplied with money by an unknown friend in Arabia; but the Court paid no attention to his cant. La Motte and others were duly punished; as for our count, though he got free, it was in the state of a beggar. The sun of the arch-quack had begun its descent, and rapid, indeed, was its downward course. In England, to which he now resorted, he gained the countenance of scarcely one man of note excepting poor Lord George Gordon; and trickery was now at a discount, whether in regard to elixirs or Egyptian lodges. Cagliostro was compelled to look to the continent again; but alas! France, Germany, Russia, and the Sardinian Territory, were all closed against him by positive royal edicts. He had been too successful in his magic. His wide-spread reputation had roused the long suspicious Church, and he had lost all power to contend with her. So he felt to his cost, when, after some obscure and poverty-struck ramblings, he ventured at length to enter Rome in 1789, urged by his wife, who, jaded and wearied out, now desired but to reach her mother's grave and die.

Cagliostro had not been long there, ere the Inquisition caught him founding what Mr. Carlyle aptly calls, "some feeble, moneyless ghost of an Egyptian lodge," and he was thrown into the Castle of St. Angelo. By papers and petitions, and explanations and recantations, Cagliostro still struggled stoutly for life and liberty. The former boon he obtained; but being doomed to perpetual confinement, he died in St. Angelo in the summer of 1795. The Grand Copthess was placed for life in a nunnery.

Cagliastro forms, on the whole, a sad monument of the miseries of a life of imposture. We have here seen what was the end of all, and moreover, with all his impudent assurance, it may be doubted if the instability of his position, and the constant risk of exposure, left him one happy moment, even in the hours of his greatest success. Goethe visited his disclaimed mother and sister; and the picture given of their calm tranquillity of mind, in the midst of poverty and privations, but impresses

us the more strongly with a sense of the folly of preferring a life of splendid vice to one of humble virtue.

PHYSIOGNOMY OF THE HUMAN FORM.

He that professes to teach men how they may, with little trouble, ascertain the characters of their neighbors, might excuse himself from the task of proving that his doctrine has a foundation in true science; for in the large majority of minds, curiosity, self-interest, philanthropy, policy, or the pure love of truth, would insure a favorable hearing for the promises of such knowledge. It might, therefore, seem a waste of time to preface a system of physiognomy with an essay to show that it seems, in all its parts, consistent with admitted facts and rules of science; but Carus, as becomes an accomplished comparative anatomist, has done this in the works before us; and we will follow his example, or rather go beyond it, in the design of justifying, by general considerations rather than by particular instances, the belief that each man's mental nature may be discerned in his external form. There are few, perhaps, who do not hold such a belief, few who do not often act on it in the ordinary affairs of life, but there are far fewer who could give good reasons for it, or who could not be dissuaded from it by the improbabilities which it seems to involve. Moreover, if it be generally admitted that certain indications of the mental character may be discerned in the body, some will hold that they are to be read in the face alone, which is the art of physiognomy as commonly practised; or in the head alone, as in phrenology; or in the transient expressions alone, as in the "anatomy of expression;" few will believe that symbols of the mind are to be found in the fixed forms of every feature and member of the body, and that there are sound reasons why it should be so.

Now, the first general argument for the probability of such a science of symbols in the human form may be drawn from the nearly universal assent to it, implied in the practice of judging of men by their personal appearance. "Every one," says Addison, "is in some degree a master of that art which is generally distinguished by the name of Physiognomy, and naturally forms to himself the character or fortune of a stranger from the features and lineaments of his face. We are no sooner presented to any one we never saw

before, but we are immediately struck with the idea of a proud, a reserved, an affable, or a good-natured man; and upon our first going into a company of strangers, our benevolence or aversion, awe or contempt, rises naturally towards several particular persons before we have heard them speak a single word, or so much as know who they are. For my own part, I am so apt to frame a notion of every man's humor or circumstances by his looks, that I have sometimes employed myself from Charing Cross to the Royal Exchange in drawing the characters of those who have passed by me. When I see a man with a sour, rivelled face, I cannot forbear pitying his wife; and when I meet with an open, ingenuous countenance, I think on the happiness of his friends, his family, and his relations. I cannot recollect the author of a famous saying to a stranger who stood silent in his company—"Speak that I may see thee." But with submission I think we may be better known by our looks than by our words, and that a man's speech is much more easily disguised than his countenance." Nor is the art confined to those who are grown up; for little children have, as by intuition, their loves and fears, their attractions and aversions, founded on the unreasoned judgments which they form from the aspects of those around them. Nay, we may go beyond our own race, since even the brutes that we bring about us in domestic life seem to judge of our minds from their observation of our features.

The same general assent to the symbolic science is implied in the numerous familiar terms used to express the whole character of a man by speaking of a single member of his body. Such terms as "long-headed," "shallow-brained," "brazen-faced," "supercilious," "hard-featured," "stiff-necked," "open-faced," "hard-mouthed," "a good hand," "a cunning hand," and a hundred more that we could cite, are expressive only because it is generally true that the bodily characters which they describe are symbolical of the mental natures which they imply. Such terms are not all arbitrary or fanciful; many among them express the general belief in the correspondences not only of mind and body, but of mind and shape.

It is true that this general belief is vague, and not intelligent; but so are all general beliefs, and it is their wide diffusion, not their precision, which gives them weight in evidence. And, if it seems that an argument for any doctrine, drawn from the general assent to it, is enfeebled by the fact that the same assent

is given to many popular errors, such as those about some of the influences of the moon on weather and on mental disease, those about prophecies of death, and many similar fallacies, we answer, that these are all traditional errors; every child learns them from its elders: but there is no such tradition in physiognomy; no child is taught it; rather every child practises it, as if by instinct, and every man who practises it improves his knowledge by his own unaided experience. Whatever probability, therefore, a doctrine may claim on the ground that it is generally assented to, this may be claimed for the physiognomy of the human form.

But the assent is not only popular and inconsiderate. The best authorities among men, the keenest observers of all classes, have believed the doctrine, and have applied it. Those have done so who have been most eminent for "knowledge of the world;" for this knowledge includes the ability to tell, or guess well, at sight, what a man is, or will feel or do in certain events. It comprehends a swift and intuitive perception of character as displayed in form, and such a perception as penetrates far beneath the surface of emotional expressions, right into the foundation form, in which are the true symbols of the mind's nature. "I conceive the passions of men," says that consummate painter of character, Henry Fielding, "do commonly imprint sufficient marks on the countenance; and it is owing chiefly to want of skill in the observer that physiognomy is of little use and credit in the world." His novels abound with instances of his faith in such indications. "If Mrs. Tow-mouse," he says in *Joseph Andrews*, "had given no utterance to the sweetness of her temper, nature had taken such pains in her countenance that Hogarth himself never gave more expression to a picture." And he adds a minute description of all her features in accordance with the characteristics which observation had taught him belonged to similar dispositions. So little did he hold the opinion which he puts into the mouth of one of his personages, that nobody would dream of looking in a man's face except to see if he had had the small-pox. In fact, every novelist aims at a certain keeping between the nature and the appearance of the characters he depicts.

It would not be difficult to collect a volume of passages from poets, implying their belief in the symbolical meanings of every imaginable form of feature; indeed, in all the poetry of human forms such meanings are assumed.

"I am very much of Lavater's opinion," says Cowper, "and persuaded that faces are as legible as books, only with these circumstances to recommend them to our perusal, that they are read in much less time, and are much less likely to deceive us; in fact, I cannot recollect that my skill in physiognomy has ever deceived me." Southey was accustomed to assert the same thing. If the power to which Cowper and Southey laid claim really existed, and there is no reason to doubt it, it does of itself prove the point. It is no answer for others to say that they themselves are often mistaken in their conclusions. This only shows that they are not possessed of the art.

The testimony of wise men and of men of science has in many instances been as clear as that of poets and men of the world. "A man may be known by his look, and one that hath understanding by his countenance, when thou meetest him. A man's attire, and excessive laughter, and gait, show what he is." Such is some of the wisdom of the Son of Sirach. From Aristotle we have a complete treatise on physiognomy, in which he not only maintains the correspondences, through sympathy, between minds and bodies, but enumerates the characters which are severally indicated by varieties of form in the whole body and in each part, in the complexion, the hair, the several features, the voice, and gait. Bacon says, in speaking of physiognomy and the exposition of natural dreams, "Although they have of late time been used to be coupled with superstitions and fantastical arts, yet, being purged and restored to their true state, they have both of them a solid ground in nature and a profitable use in life. . . . The lineaments of the body do disclose the disposition and inclination of the mind in general; but the motions of the countenance and parts do not only so, but do farther disclose the present humor and state of the mind and will. And therefore a number of subtle persons, whose eyes do dwell upon the faces and fashions of men, do well know the advantage of this observation, as being most part of their ability; neither can it be denied but that it is a great discovery of dissimulation, and a great direction in business."

Haller admitted the truth of physiognomy — at least, in the interpretation of the fixed or engraven expressions of the habitual emotions. So too, Sir Thomas Browne says, "There are mystically in our faces certain characters, which carry in them the motto of our souls, wherein he that cannot read A B C may read our natures." And again: "Since the brow

speaks often true, since eyes and noses have tongues, and the countenance proclaims the heart and inclinations, let observation so far instruct thee in physiognomical lines, as to be some rule for thy distinction and guide for thy affection unto such as look most like men."

To conclude our list of authorities we might bring in the whole body of artists; for the whole application of the fine arts to the representation of men is based on the principle that the minds of those who are represented may be indicated by their forms. Let any one reflect how and why it is that such works of art affect him, according to their various designs, and he will find that it is because he discerns in them the images of minds. And if he would learn how ready is his own natural apprehension of character expressed in shape, let him look closely into the familiar sketches by such artists as Cruikshank or Leach, and see by what it is, by what mere dots and lines in the place of features, that he discerns the mind of each person whom they represent. It is true that artists, in depicting character, often help out their designs by adopting either some transient emotion or some action significant of the mind they would portray: but this is not the custom in the highest art; it looks deeper than the emotions or transient actions of men, and seizes the fixed, unchanging forms, because in these it discerns the real symbols of their minds. Their representation is, indeed, much more difficult than that of any action or emotion, just as it is more difficult to tell the meaning of a tranquil face than of one ruffled by passion; but in the works of every true artist the difficulty is overcome, and the general admiration of such works confesses to the general belief that the interior nature of men is indicated by their external forms.

Thus is the nearly universal popular assent to the truth of physiognomy justified by the expressed or implied testimony of observant and reflecting men. We may derive another argument for it from the probability that the outer form would be designed *on purpose* to represent the mental character. None can deny the significance of the expressions of transient states of feeling, as of rage, or grief, or fear, — or of those which, by frequent use, become impressed, or, as it were, wrought into the form. Now, these expressions are of no human invention; they are not learned by imitation; but are natural, and divinely designed, on purpose that the inner mind may be known

to those who watch the outer man. Except as symbols, the curled lip of scorn, the wrinkled brow of anger, the settled frown of spleen, and the blush of shame, are purposeless. The several emotions and their appropriate expressions have no known connection, apart from the design of causing the external to signify the internal state. But, if it be thus intended that men should be able to read in features the transient or the habitual state of each others' minds, it is surely very probable that the deeper and more abiding characters of minds should be similarly though less openly declared. If the face, for instance, is made to tell, by its undulations, the breath that gently moves the surface of the soul, or the storm that troubles it to its very depth, it may surely, in its fixed, unalterable forms, symbolize the permanent characteristics of the man. It is true that we know, instinctively and without study, the meanings of the transient expressions, while those of the fixed forms are often difficult to read; but this difference is quite consistent with the belief that both are alike significant and designed. The ready understanding of the casual emotions is often instantly essential to our well-being, for they commonly require an immediate response; such an understanding, therefore, is provided, without study, for all. But that the symbols of the mind's enduring character should need a deeper study is no evidence that they are less sure. The most useful and important branches of knowledge are not always the most easily acquired; geology is less difficult than medicine.

This argument, in the instance of the face, will hold equally of other parts. The expressions of the face are, indeed, the most perfect and most quickly understood, and there may therefore seem more evident design in them than in others. But the clenched hand, the stamping foot, the tossed-up head, the bended knee, are as significant, and as naturally symbolical, as any movement of the features; and while these parts, in their action, thus disclose the movements of the mind, we may well expect that, in their repose, they may indicate its settled character. To symbolize is not, indeed, the chief or primary object of the construction of these parts; but neither is it so of any of the features of the face. The general law of symbolical construction is, that forms are made to be significant without interfering with the fitness of the parts for other purposes than those of symbolizing. The features in which the symbols are most evident, as the lips and nose, have their fitness for breathing, &c.,

as their primary design. But their being perfect for the purposes of breathing, speech, and smelling, does not hinder their having also a symbolical meaning. In like manner, the breathing chest, the prehensile hands, the locomotive feet, may be designed to indicate the nature of the mind, without impairing their fitness for their primary purposes. Besides, we might be nearly sure, from the general consistency and correlation of all parts of the body, that all would be symbolical if any are; and that, as all minister to one design in the maintenance of the body, so all would be corroborative in their mental testimony. They might differ in the fulness or the clearness of their expressions; but it would be a difference of emphasis, not of language. And what we might thus expect is, indeed, proved in practice; for what Carus says of the lower limbs is equally true of the upper and of the trunk, that if a skilful artist were shown the fragments of some of the best antique statues, he would not for a moment doubt about the meaning and design of each; he would discern, in each, its peculiar fitness to share in the portrayal of some definite mind.

It has been often urged as an objection against all attempts to discern the mind in the outer form, that it is absurd to suppose either that the mind can determine the shape of any part of the body into an image of itself, or that the form or size of the body, or any part of it, can affect the character of the mind. Such suppositions may be as absurd as they seem; but neither of them is necessary to explain the correspondence of mind and body maintained in the doctrine of symbols. The body and the mind, the sign, and the thing signified, do not correspond as effect to cause, but as things derived from a common origin, and planned with one design. They are in no relation of sequence, either to the other; nor is their correspondence the result of mutual sympathy; but, because one Divine Mind has made them both, according to one idea, there is perfect congruity between them; the body is the image of the mind, and, in the visible, the invisible is revealed.

In this view, the study of symbols in the human form is but a branch of that which seeks them in the whole world; and which, as Carus expresses it, "strives to regard and understand the world at large as the symbol of the most high eternal mystery of the Godhead, and man as the symbol of the Divine Idea of the mind." The study is justified and encouraged by the belief which very thought-

ful men, in all ages, have entertained, that the Creator has impressed, on all his works, signs by which their essential nature might be clear to the human reason. As Sir Thomas Browne has expressed it, "The finger of God hath left an inscription upon all his works, not graphical or composed of letters, but of their several forms, constitutions, parts, and operations, which, aptly joined together, do make one word that doth express their natures."

In this view, also, it is no inconsiderable argument for the doctrine of symbols that men have, in all ages, been accustomed to symbolize their own ideas. For this is an evidence of their consciousness that immaterial things may be aptly expressed in corporeal forms; it is an admission of the existence of a natural faculty for interpreting such forms, and of being affected by them as by the ideas which they incorporate.

Such are the chief general evidences which may establish the antecedent probability of the doctrine of symbols in the human form, even before entering upon the observation of particular facts, or the discovery of any rules for their interpretation. These rules of study and interpretation must next be explained; and they form the chief grounds on which Carus builds his system, and by which, connecting it with other parts of modern science, and especially with physiology, he claims for it a superiority over any previous scheme of physiognomy.

The first and best series of symbols are such as may be collected from those generalities of form which are characteristic of large groups of individuals, and are associated in them with equally characteristic generalities of mind.

Amid all the diversities that may be observed in each of the sexes, certain peculiarities of form and feature are so characteristic of the man, that we naturally call them masculine; while we call other shapes of the same parts feminine, because they are as characteristic of the woman. The lower stature, the smaller head, the narrower shoulders, the rounder throat and limbs, the smaller, plumper features, the smaller hands and feet, the softer texture of every part, the longer hair, and the less colored skin, are the chief peculiarities of the feminine form; and they generally correspond with a more sensitive and feeble constitution, a predominance of the feelings and affections over the intellect and the will, a quick perception with comparatively small power of reasoning, a singular readiness to be im-

pressed, and a proneness to concentrated attachment. Seeing, then, that these characteristics of form and of mind are generally so found together, that no reasonable person doubts as to what is manly and what is womanly, in either form or mind, we may regard what we see in the one as the symbol of what we cannot see in the other. Then, in the same proportion as the forms, in any person, whether man or woman, tend towards that which is perfectly characteristic of the one or other sex, so do they indicate that, in the mind of that person, the characteristics of the same sex predominate. Feminine features in a man, and masculine features in a woman, always reveal a corresponding misplaced cast of mind. The commonest observation would prove this in general; but the rule is applicable in more instances than at first appear, and as an example of correspondences between form and mind, is incontrovertible.

A similar rule holds for the interpretation of child-like features in adults. The little features, the large head free from undulations of surface, and with a smooth round forehead, the thick and plump short-fingered hand—in a word, the imperfectly-developed forms, elemental and as yet undetermined, which are normal in the child, and symbolize its elemental and undeveloped mind, will, in the adult, declare a child-like character.

In like manner, the evident coincidence between national features and national mental characteristics presents us with a large series of symbolical forms admitting of rational interpretation. The more the features of a European, for example, tend towards those that are typical of any other race, the more will the mind be deflected from the European standard to that of the race whose features are imitated.

Let it be observed now, that, with few exceptions we are unable to assign any but a symbolical meaning to all these differences of form, for example, we are wholly unaware of any purpose (unless it be that of symbolizing) for which women's features should be generally smaller than those of men, their hands plumper and more sensitive, their feet more slender, their hair longer, or their noses shorter. We know why children must be small; but we know no good reason, in the economy of their existence, why their hands and feet, and (after the first few years) their heads, and eyes, and noses should not, in their smallness, have the adult shapes. As little can we say what special use the negro finds in the thickness of

his lips, the length of his forearms, the flatness of his feet, or the prominence of his jaws. In short, for all the multiform peculiarities of shape that mark the distinctions of race and nation, of sex and age, there are very few to which we can assign any similar peculiarity of purpose. Can it be then that, in the midst of nature's all pervading purpose, these things are purposeless and unmeaning?—or are their purpose and meaning revealed when the mind is revealed through them?

A second series of symbols is obtained by extending this line of study to the correspondences between forms and minds in the lower animals—on the principle that an unusual likeness between the features of any person and those of some lower animal will indicate a corresponding likeness of their minds. This was the main foundation of Aristotle's Physiognomy; and Porta adopted it as fully, though with somewhat better discrimination. It is popularly recognized, both in many *soubriquets* and in the general judgment of men's characters by their appearances. And it may seem to have a foundation in reason. For if, as Oken expresses it, "Man is the sum-total of all animals, as well in regard of his form as of his mental powers;" and if, in many of the instances in which his form falls short of its ideal perfection, it seems to rest in or near some state which is normally characteristic of a lower animal, it cannot be strange if the mind be arrested in a corresponding state; rather we might expect that the idea imperfectly elaborated would be expressed in a similar and corresponding shortness of perfection in both mind and body.

Other symbols are derived, by Carus, from supposed analogies of human forms with objects in the inorganic world. Thus he interprets the flat or perfectly smooth surface of any part of the skull by its likeness to what is inorganic, dead and empty; and the undulating surface of a similar part by its likeness to that in which there is movement, signaling the activity of vital movement in the parts beneath the surface. The symbols hence derived may form a third group, together with those which are indicated by the modes of growth of certain parts. For example, the broad forehead is generally associated with a comprehensive and analytic power of the intellect; and the narrower high forehead with a habit of concentration of the intellectual powers. It may be just to explain this symbolism by the statement that the formative power has been exercised in the brain, in the one case, with an analytic diver-

gent tendency, and in the other with a synthetic concentrative energy, corresponding with the several characters of the minds.

A fourth series of symbols may be collected from the likenesses of the natural and constant features in some persons to those expressions which, more commonly, disclose the transient or habitual states of minds. These transient expressions, to whose import, as symbols universally acknowledged, we have before referred, and by which the natural pantomime of life is carried on, indicate in their ordinary occurrence, only the present or passing state of the mind: they tell what the mind is; but, by frequent repetition, the marks of any of them may become fixed in the features, and now they indicate the acquired character—the second or habitual nature of the mind; they tell now what the mind has become. But both the transient and the habitual expressions must be distinguished from those symbols which, though like them and interpreted by them, are inborn; or which, as the features are gradually formed, become more marked, even though the dispositions which they commonly symbolize may be resisted, or by education quite suppressed. For these natural permanent expressions are among the symbols which tell not what the mind is or has become, but what it was, or might have been, or always has been. That the native propensities, as indicated by the appearance, are often subdued, is a matter of common remark. "I have seen," says Addison, "many an amiable piece of deformity; and have observed a certain cheerfulness in as bad a system of features as ever was clapped together, which has appeared more lovely than all the blooming charms of an insolent beauty. There is a double praise due to virtue when it is lodged in a body that seems to have been prepared for the reception of vice; in many such cases the soul and body do not seem to be fellows." And he proceeds to relate the story of the physiognomist pronouncing Socrates to be a lewd fellow, to the ridicule of his followers, when the philosopher confessed that he was by nature addicted to the very vices which had been specified, and had only conquered them by the most vigorous efforts.

Thus, then, four series of symbols are derived from different sources. We must add now some brief general rules respecting the meanings and relative values of the symbols in different parts.

Each part symbolizes, chiefly and primarily, that power or faculty of the mind with which,

in its office in the economy, it is most nearly associated, *e. g.* the forehead, the intellect; the hind-head, the will.

The symbols of different parts have generally different degrees of value, according to their official connection (if we may so name it) with the mind, is more or less intimate. In the first rank is the brain, represented by the skull; then the organs of the higher senses, each of which symbolizes chiefly that mental power with whose portions of the brain it is most nearly associated; as the nose, the intellect; the eye, the feelings: then, in a next rank, are the hand and foot, and so on. Additional symbolic value belongs to those parts in the form or size of which the chief specific characters of man reside: hence an additional value is given to the size of the head, to the nose, the hand, and the foot.

The gradation of symbolic values is not the result of successive dependencies of the lower, or more remotely mental, on the higher organs. Each part, of whatever grade, is formed according to a common design; in each the same idea should be embodied. Hence, there is generally a manifest mutual fitness among all the parts of each body; but the defect of one part, or its deflection from the common design, does not necessarily implicate another.

The mutual fitness and correspondence of all the parts of the body is often such, that the character symbolized by all, may be clearly discerned in any one, especially in any one of those that have the highest symbolic value: hence the success of such essays as those of D'Arpentigny on the Hand, and of the author of "Notes on Noses," and others who have studied the symbols of character in one part exclusively. But such special studies are unsafe. Excepting, perhaps, certain forms of the head, there is probably no form of any part, the import of which may not be outweighed by the indications of other parts concurring against it; and the chief difficulty in physiognomic practice is to form a just estimate of character by rightly balancing the indications of the several features when they are, or seem to be, at variance.

For every part there is a standard, whether of size or peculiarity of shape, beyond which if it extend, it turns to an unmeaning, or an ill-meaning, caricature. A very large bowed-out forehead, for example, is more likely to belong to an idiot than to a man of sense; an excessive Roman nose, especially in a woman, becomes an unmeaning hyperbole.

Generally, those parts of man are least

likely to be fallacious in their indications which earliest attain or approximate to their perfect size and shape, and whose development is, therefore, least exposed to the disturbing influences of the outer world. Such are the brain, eye, and ear. The liability to fallacy increases in the same measure as the organs or modes of action are alterable after early life, and especially when they are alterable at will. Hence the comparative uncertainty of the gaits of men, of their voices, and manner of speech. Naturally, the significance of these symbols would be clear and strong, and, in many men, nothing can obliterate or veil it; but many can deceive in these particulars, or can be educated out of them, or can change them for fashion's sake, or for any other motive; and thus they become uncertain indications of character, unless we can tell whether they are natural or assumed. Still less reliable are the symbolisms of dress and handwriting, on which some would rely. They are not unmeaning; but, as they may be assumed under any other guidance than that of nature, so may they indicate anything but the truth.

By the observance and extension of rules such as these, the "Symbolics of the Human Form" may be studied as a science; but it must not be forgotten that there is an art, also, in the study, and that as yet the art of common Physiognomy is much in advance of the science of symbolics. Independent of all rules of science, most persons may generally rely on their natural perception of the fitness and correspondence between certain forms and certain characters of mind. Beginning with the interpretation of well-marked features, they may, by study, but still without scientific rules, proceed to the understanding of the finer differences of men, and may become good symbolists. To many, indeed, it may seem vague and irrational to speak of such a power of discerning minds through the shapes of matter as it were by instinct; but the ordinary exercise of the physiognomical art is inexplicable without the assumption of such a power, and some of the best practical physiognomists have largely relied upon it. Among these was Lavater. He was evidently guided in his estimates of character by a rapid intuition, by a kind of sentimental perception, much more than by careful observation, measurement, and comparison. He felt, rather than studied, in physiognomy; and his assurance of its truths was a hearty unintelligent conviction. Doubtless, however, different persons differ

widely in the degrees in which they possess this perceptive power, and, probably, some are wholly devoid of it. Being without it themselves, they deny its existence in others; but it would be as fair to deny that there is an art and even a science of music, because to many the fitness of musical notes to express ideas and passions is an unintelligible mystery. If one person can discern the mind in the form of the body, his capacity is of more weight in favor of physiognomy than the incapacity of many is against it.

In the study of all the symbols in the human form it is necessary to assume a certain standard of stature, weight, color, and other properties, by comparison with which those of each individual form may be estimated. What the true standard is we do not know; but it is probably sufficient for practice, to assume the average or mean stature and other properties of large masses of persons, as the standard with which the individuals of the same race may be compared. Again, whatever be the stature of the body, we have to assume a certain law of proportion among its parts; that proportion which in a human body of the standard size would constitute the ideal-perfect human form. But, again, we are in doubt; for the true law of proportions, earnestly as it has been sought by both anatomists and artists, is probably not yet discovered. The essay of Carus to ascertain it must, however, be mentioned, both for the sake of future reference to his results, and because, though he may not have discovered the law, he has invented a useful rule for comparative measurements. He has looked for the law in the dimensions of the spine or vertebral column; and here probably it should be found; for this is the first-formed structure of the fixed, shape-determining framework of our bodies; and all the parts of the framework that are developed after it, manifold as their varieties may appear, are yet fitted to it in a harmonious plan. In the spine, therefore, should be the unit of measurement; the "organic module:" the dimension, in simple fractions or in multiples of which those of all the members of the body may be expressed. Carus assumes that the true unit or module is one-third of the length of the movable part of the spine; that is, one-third of the distance between the base of the skull and the top of the sacrum. The choice is certainly arbitrary; the grounds by which he justifies it are fanciful; but it supplies us with a convenient unit of measurement, and one to which the dimensions of many im-

portant parts are closely and very simply adjusted.*

In entering now on a very brief description of particular symbols it may be necessary to observe that, generally, only certain typical forms, whose meaning seems well marked, can be described; and that just as very few persons are of exactly the average size or weight, so there are very few in whom any part has exactly the form described as the type. In studying each person, therefore, estimates must be made, first, of the meaning of each part by its approximation to one or more typical forms; and, secondly, of the sum-total of these meanings, if they accord, or of the balance among them, if they differ.

We will speak, first, of the symbols in the stature of the whole body, and then of those in each part. It will be understood that all merely transient or acquired expressions are excluded.

In stature, the extremes of both largeness and smallness are always associated with defective mental power. Not an instance, we believe, is yet known of either a giant or a dwarf being distinguished for capacity of mind. Moreover, in both alike, the weight to be given to any bad feature, or erroneous proportion, is more intense than in a person nearer to the average size. It is the same with the extremes of size which are measurable in circumference rather than in length. The Lamberts and the living skeletons of the human race are alike persons of poor intellect.

Within these extremes, the symbols of the

* We subjoin some of the chief measurements, copied from Carus. A much fuller table of them is given in his "Proportionslehre."

	Modules.
Long diameter of the head.....	1
Height of the head without the lower jaw.....	1
Greatest circumference of the head.....	3
Arch of the lower jaw, from angle to angle.....	1
Trunk (movable part of the spine).....	3
" in front, from the top of sternum.....	3
Length of the sternum.....	1
Each half of the breadth of the shoulders, along the collar-bone	1
Length of the shoulder-blade.....	1
Length of the arm (including the upper arm, 1 4-6; fore arm, 1 2-6; hand, 1).....	3
Length of the thigh.....	2½
Length of the tibia.....	2
Length of the back of the foot.....	1
Length of the flat foot.....	1½
Length of the whole stature.....	9½

These measurements would represent the proportions (according to Carus) of the true mean human form—of "a form thoroughly correct and beautiful, but so abstract that it excludes even those characters of stature and dimensions which are severally proper to the sexes." When the individual module cannot be ascertained, it may be reckoned at just less than 7 inches: an estimate which will seldom be very wrong, because stature depends so much more on the length of the lower limbs than on that of the spine.

mind discoverable in the stature are much more conditional. They are different according as the peculiarity of stature is natural or acquired. In the former case, we may apply the rule of interpretation derived from the correspondences of mind and body in the two sexes. Excess above the mean stature may lead one to expect a proportionate manliness of character; the falling short of it will often indicate the feminine mind. Especially, this symbolism of great stature is well exemplified among women. The cool strong will, energy for self-service, choleric temperament, dominant intellect, and large grasp of mind are rarely found in women without a correspondent manliness of stature, and a strongly-built frame, large-boned and sinewy. And, in contrast with these, the majority of little men are so far effeminate that they are guided by their feelings more than by their intellects; they pass in the world as warm-hearted, or hot-headed, impulsive men; their hearts, as Aristotle says, are very near their brains; their most prominent mental feature may be courage, or self-conceit, or devotion to a single object, or a hasty temper; but they are much less often than men of average height eminent for intellect or an iron will. There are, however, numerous remarkable exceptions to this rule—as, for instance, Aristotle himself and Napoleon; and Lord Clarendon, after mentioning that Chillingworth "was of little stature," adds, "that it was an age in which many great and wonderful men were of that size."

Among the acquired, but not extreme, deviations from the mean size and weight, both corpulency and leanness are symbols capable of interpretation; yet, like varieties of stature, they will indicate only the most general outlines of character, and even these only conditionally on the proportions and forms of the several parts. Corpulency, though it may be associated with a great variety of understandings, is rarely found with intellectual activity, with a fervent disposition, or an earnest, energetic will. It most commonly indicates quietude and slowness of mind; a mind which may be very genial, and gentle, and good-humored, as being sluggish alike in passion and in action, but which will never be self-wasting in intellectual production or in deep contemplation. This is, especially, the case among women, in whom, "at a certain age," corpulency is much more apt to occur than it is in men, and in whom, particularly in that event, the mind, if not naturally well endowed and fully occupied, is apt to fall into apathy, and a sort of quiet

submission to the senses, degenerating with the body, the increase of which is a measure of its failing energy. In men, with stronger will, the phlegmatic temperament, in which corpulency is most apt to occur, more often passes into a certain coarseness and Boeotianism of character; or the good-humor which is so often found with fatness, may, with a manly intellectual power and acuteness, be accompanied with the most pointed wit.

"If," says Carus, "in corpulency the symbol be seen of a certain dulness, inactivity, slowness, and in a word, corporeality, so is there in leanness, as such, rather the symbol of a certain lightness, activity, rapidity, and mental power."

But this leanness must be of the right kind. For there is an extreme leanness in which, though it be not from disease, even the higher organs appear to degenerate and waste. Such is the leanness of want or of avarice; the leanness of starvation, whether miserable or miserly. The types of these two kinds of leanness are well marked, and in strong contrast. In the mental leanness, the body is commonly slim and elastic, and the slender limbs all wear the expression of clear refined perception, and of quick and apt response; with a sensitive or cerebral constitution, and a psychical or sanguine temperament, the whole body has a psychical expression. But in the miserable leanness there is a repulsive aspect: the eyes are hollow, the skin dry and deep-wrinkled, the nails and hair are withered. The minds which are thus symbolized are as different as the bodies: the one sort of leanness, in a well-proportioned body, indicates talent, or, more rarely, genius; and, especially, delicacy of feeling, refined intellectual power, and a mobile but energetic will; the other tells, at the best, of an ordinary mind, or of one degraded.

The symbolics of the HEAD are to be studied in the proportion which its total size bears to the rest of the body, and in the several proportions and forms of each of its three chief divisions. The nature and meaning of these divisions may need some previous explanation.

The brain consists of three chief parts, which are severally the organs of the three chief manifestations of the mind, namely, the intelligence, the feelings and the propensities. We do not stop to discuss the questions that might justly be raised about this statement, for the diversity of opinion on the matter is not sufficient, among physiologists, to affect Carus'

application of his own view to symbolics, with which alone we are now concerned. The three divisions of the brain are—1, the cerebral hemispheres, the great masses of nervous substance which nearly fill the skull; 2, the encephalic ganglia, which lie beneath and are covered in by the hemispheres; and 3, the cerebellum, which lies in the hinder and lower part of the cavity of the skull. In their first formation, these parts are much more distinct and more nearly alike than they are in later life. In the embryo, their rudiments are a series of three vesicles, of nearly equal size and seeming import, and it is only with advancing development that the increase of the anterior vesicle, as it forms the cerebral hemispheres, so far exceeds that of the other vesicles that it overwhelms them by its extension backward. But, however unequal in size they thus become, the probabilities of physiology justify the belief that the three primordial structures of the brain retain through life their difference of office, and the equal significance, which their near equality at the outset appeared to indicate.

In close relation with these divisions of the brain are three divisions or segments of the skull, three cranial vertebræ, *i.e.* three bones, or groups of bones, which, not only in development and plan, but in their office of incasing the brain, correspond with the several segments of vertebræ of the spine which incase the spinal marrow. In the fully-formed skull, indeed, the relations of its several vertebræ to their proper portions of the brain are disturbed, and the whole of their upper vaulted parts appears planned only to fit and incase the cerebral hemispheres. But, in the embryo state, the distinctness and correspondence of the three cranial vertebræ and the three divisions of the brain are evident; and as, in their first construction, they thus correspond and answer to each other, not because either determines the formation of the other, but because both are formed on one design, so, through life, each vertebra in its size and form represents its proper division of the brain, and symbolizes the mental power of which that division of the brain is the instrument. Through life, therefore, the forehead, the mid-head, and the hind-head—*i.e.* the vaulted parts of the three cranial vertebræ—severally answer to, and reveal the conditions of, the fore-brain or cerebral hemispheres, the mid-brain or encephalic ganglia, and the hind-brain or cerebellum; and, through these correspondences with the brain, they severally symbolize the conditions

of the intelligence, the feelings, and the propensities, or, in other words, of the knowing, the feeling, and the willing faculties.

Moreover, the nerves of the higher senses — of smell, sight, and hearing — are severally connected with these three chief divisions of the brain, appearing to issue from them, and passing beyond the cavity of the skull at or near the places of meeting of the corresponding vertebræ. The organs of sense receiving these nerves thus, also, become symbols of the mental powers associated with the corresponding parts of the brain; the nose symbolizing chiefly the intelligence; the eye, the feelings; the ear, chiefly the propensities.

Now, as already stated, the whole skull, and each of its divisions, are symbolical both in its size and shape,* and the symbols of the head have every claim to be reckoned in the first rank; for, as representing the brain, the head is, of all tangible parts, the nearest in relation to the mind; its early development and early attainment of almost its full size make it, less than other parts, alterable by external influences; it is unalterable by the will or any ordinary customs; and it is, of all parts, the most eminently human; because, among all the material distinctions between man and brutes, none is so great as the predominance of the apparatus for his mental life over that for his mere corporeal life.

In estimating the significance of skulls (or, during life, of heads *minus* the faces, but including the foreheads) we may omit all consideration of those enormous skulls which are enlarged by disease; as well as of those very diminutive heads which are found in Aztec and

other idiots. So far as we yet know, these enormities produced by disease do not either elucidate or interfere with the meaning of the healthy skull.

[To be concluded.]

Moral Insanity. — During the trial of Huntington, the great forger, in New York, last week, Dr. William Parker, Professor of Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, testified that he had examined Huntington, with a view to test his sanity, and he had come to the conclusion that he was of unsound mind. He considered Huntington "morally insane," and incapable of appreciating the crime with which he is charged. His diseased organization was such, that he could not resist the tendency to commit forgery.

What will the phrenologist say to all this?

There was also put upon the stand, a physician of another school, who was of the same opinion. Dr. Otto Fullgraff, a homœopathic practitioner, and Huntington's physician, testified that he was often called to visit Huntington three or four times a day or night, and frequently when he thought his visits were superfluous. We make the following extract from the evidence of the doctor: —

"I have been in his house frequently when music was there; one night I went there and found the house illuminated, and blasts of horns, trombones, &c. I told him he had a fine time, but he ought to wait till his wife was recovered; he said he thought it would hasten her recovery; I advised him to stop it, and he said he would not. This continued about twice a week for four or five weeks. He would come up once in a while when his wife was sick in the bed-room. He then would go and lie under a couch and whistle with the music."

A new mental field for exploration is evidently presenting. All crimes, according to the phrenological philosophers, indicate a degree of insanity, since no person in the full and healthful exercise of mind, would do a moral wrong. Conscience is overcome by cerebral disease.

* The following are the average measurements of the three cranial vertebræ, according to Carus. They are generally confirmed by those of Huschke (Schädel Hirn, und Seele, folio, Jena, 1854,) which, however, though much more complete, can scarcely be used for comparison with living heads:

	Inches.
Frontal, or forehead —	
Length (chord) of the arch, from the junction with the nasal to that with the parietal bones	4 2-3
Height from the orifice of the ear to the frontal eminence	5 1-4
Breadth, from one frontal eminence to the other	5 1-5
Parietal, or mid-head —	
Length, from junction with frontal to that with the occipital bone	4 2-3
Height, from the orifice of the ear to the top of the head	5 1-4
Breadth, from one parietal eminence to the other	6 1-8
Occipital, or hind-head —	
Length, from the apex of its angle to the hinder margin of the foramen magnum	3 1-2
Height, from the orifice of the ear to the apex of the same angle	4 1-12
Breadth, just above and behind the mastoid processes	4 1-12

ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN GREECE, DURING THE HEROIC AGES.

BY PROF. WRIGHT, IOWA.

Chiron, the Thessalian—His various accomplishments—His school—Frequented by noble youths—Its consolidating influence upon the mind and political strength of Greece—His skill in medicine—Esculapius—Disciple of Chiron—Testimony of Pindar—Patroclus—Machaon and Podalirius—Decline of Medicine in Greece.

After Melampus, the next personage distinguished for medical skill, in Greece, was Chiron, the Thessalian. Like most of the ancients that were distinguished for learning and skill, Chiron was of illustrious family, and like them, he also was distinguished for his skill in music and magic, as well as for his proficiency in the more useful sciences. To Chiron, learning had a peculiar charm; like some others who have succeeded him, he paid his addresses with persevering and impartial ardor to all of the muses. He disdained the pomp and cares of power; and that he might enjoy the conversation of books, and the records of the past, as well as the pleasure of meditation and experiment, he withdrew to a cave at the foot of mount Pelion. But, attracted by his reputation, and influenced also, no doubt, by the singularity of his history, a considerable number of the most promising youths of the country soon gathered around him; so that his school became the most popular one of its time, and has been celebrated, on account of its illustrious pupils in every succeeding age.

Blind panegyric, however, often heightens the real color of virtues, and conceals errors. It is a very common failing in treating of a subject, to make too much out of the materials offered for discussion. It should, therefore, be borne in mind, while speaking of Chiron, and his pupils, that the latter were not, in every respect, the children of his efforts. His pupils were youths of noble connection—destined, by the laws and customs of their countries, to lead armies and legislate, and administer laws. It must not be supposed, therefore, that they had not other masters besides Chiron, in the several departments of learning, which their birth and destiny required of them to pursue. That Chiron was the most distinguished of all the preceptors of Grecian youth, in his own time, is undeniable; and being by birth, a companion and counsellor, as well as by ability and choice, a preceptor, his instructions, no doubt, had great weight upon the minds of his scholars.

Yet it cannot be denied, that the school of

Chiron—whether designed by a wise foresight of his own, or not, can never be known—by the congregation of noble youths it gathered together, the acquaintance and friendship there formed between them, and the sympathy necessarily arising from the imbibition of similar principle, from the teaching of the same master, at the same time—had, in addition to a general spread of useful knowledge, the effect of consolidating the petty principalities of Greece, into a unity of custom, of principle and of action. This unity of feeling, and the personal intercourse between the young princes of Greece, occasioned those concerted and persevering efforts during the Trojan War, as much, or even more, no doubt, than the oath the leaders in that undertaking are said to have taken, respecting the protection of the fickle Helen. This result,—the consolidation of the mind, and, in some degree, of the forces of the Grecian States, grew,—although quite likely unintentionally—out of the school of Chiron. It is but little wonderful, that a man of so great good qualities, and one to whom all could look back with kindred feelings of regard and admiration, should be frequently spoken of, by the heroes of the Trojan War; or that they should all be proud to own themselves his pupils.

But Chiron is also celebrated for his instructions in sundry useful sciences, and especially in the science of Medicine. The great Achilles was a pupil of Chiron; he is celebrated for his skill in the healing art, as well as for his prowess as a warrior. But in Esculapius shone pre-eminently the wisdom of Chiron as an instructor in the medical science. Esculapius, in common with the students of Chiron, was most likely of noble birth. This is more probable from the fact, that he was called the son of Apollo; although his divine origin was, perhaps, attributed to Apollo in preference to other gods, from the fact of his being skilful in the art of medicine, over which Apollo specially presided. Esculapius flourished during the Trojan war. He was older, however, than the chief actors in that war, for he had sons old enough to hold command of forces during its continuance. Esculapius himself was indeed one of those who, in the age previous to the expedition of the Greeks against Troy, engaged in the enterprise of the Argonauts, who started from Thessaly in search of the golden fleece.

Many, from a superficial study of the history of medicine, have regarded Esculapius as the father of that science. Even in ancien

times, he was esteemed to have been the founder of the medical art. There can be no doubt that he must have been well adapted in his intellectual organization, for the practice of physic. His energy and devotion to his profession, together with the skill he undoubtedly possessed, of applying the knowledge he had obtained from others, as well as that which had resulted from his own observations and experiments, to the cure of disease, and the mitigation of pain, made a deep impression upon the minds of those amongst whom he lived. The necessity which such an expedition as that of the Argonauts must have felt for good medical advice, and the elements of that necessity being so happily filled in the possession of Esculapius, could not otherwise than result in lasting gratitude and favor to him. Chiron taught, and was also the friend and counsellor, of the noble youths of Greece. They remembered him, and honored him; and his fame will never die. Esculapius was Chiron himself, in active, practical life, in one of his characters, (that of physician) and he proved a worthy successor to him, and a truthful exponent of his principles. Perhaps the expression would not be too bold to say, that Esculapius was a volume of Chiron, with notes and explanations. To the modern world Chiron, in medicine, so far as Ancient Greece was concerned, was the *theory* and Esculapius the *practice*. Without Chiron there would have been no Esculapius, and without the energy, perseverance, and bravery and skill of Esculapius, Chiron would have been useless, and probably unknown.

Many are the inventions collateral with medical science, that are attributed to Esculapius. It is unnecessary to enumerate them, because of the doubt that exists relative to the alleged facts themselves. Such a reputation itself is all that is necessary as illustrating the truth, that Esculapius possessed great skill as a physician, and practised the medical art in a diversified and natural way,—in such a manner, in fact, as leaves no doubt that his dependence was not placed chiefly in charms and mysterious rites, which always have a more or less constant character—no matter what may be the nature of the malady for the cure of which such are employed. It would seem that he was little addicted to the employment of a certain system or formula of ceremonies, or even of remedies for all classes of diseases, as was common to many of the pretended physicians, and the enchanters of ancient times—such as, according to Josephus, Solomon, him-

self, invented. According to Cicero, Esculapius was the inventor of pulling teeth.

Pindar, well versed in the antiquities of the Greeks, speaks in high terms of the medical skill of Esculapius—

“Of those whom nature made to feel
Corroding ulcers gnaw their frame,
Or stones far hurled, or glittering steel,
All to the great physician came.
By summer's heat or winter's cold
Oppressed,—of him they sought relief,
Each deadly pang his skill controlled,
And found a balm for every grief,
On some the force of charmed strains he tried,
To same the medicated draught applied,
Some limbs he placed the amulets around,
Some from the trunk he cut, and made the patient sound.”

These lines coming from Pindar, contain great praise of Esculapius. If they really contain the literal truth, they indicate a considerable degree of knowledge of the causes of disease, as well as unequivocal skill in curing it. In a warlike age, and among warriors, it is but natural to suppose, that treatment of wounds would occupy a leading place in the practice of medicine. In addition to a knowledge of surgery, the reference to diseases incident to climatic influences, evinces some degree of information respecting the natural causes of epidemics—while the general character of the treatment described, well comports with the nature of the superstitions of the times, as well as with an advanced condition of surgical art. How much efficacy was really attributed to charms and the magical influences of amulets and music, in the cure of diseases, by such men as Melampus, and Chiron, and Esculapius, cannot be told. But it is quite possible that, after all, there was not a great deal. The fact that Esculapius was an old man, about the time of the Trojan war, was, no doubt, the reason why he was described by those living at that period, as a venerable personage, with a long beard, and leaning upon a staff. Under such a form he was afterwards worshipped—or, sometimes under the form of a serpent—distinguished by ancient nations as the wisest of all the lower animals.

Patroclus is represented by Homer, as curing a wound of Euripylus, by applying an infusion of a certain bitter root to it.

But, after Esculapius, his sons, Machaon and Podalirius, were more celebrated by the ancient Grecians, as physicians, than any others. Medicine, which seemed to have been practised by Esculapius as a whole, in all its branches, appears to have been divided in his sons. Machaon is celebrated for his skill in chirurgical operations; while Podalirius was equally distinguished in those branches of

physic, founded upon principles and reasonings. The distinction here indicated, between the surgeon Machaon, and the general practitioner Podalirius, is unmistakable. Indeed, the same general distinction in the classification of causes of diseases, is made by Pindar in the lines quoted relative to Esculapius,—where he mentions the disabled from wounds, and ulcers, and those sick from climatic impressions. Podalirius on his return from the Trojan war, being driven upon the coast of Caria, cured the daughter of Damæthus, who had fallen from a height, by bleeding her in both arms.

After Esculapius and his sons had brought the profession of medicine into great repute, throughout Greece, it fell into comparative neglect with their death. According to Pliny, it not revived, until the time of Hippocrates, into anything like respectable animation. Although this is not quite true, it is not the less certain that it was several centuries before it regained its ancient though evenescent reputation.

A little reflection will serve to moderate the very natural suspicion that must, at first, accompany a knowledge of this fact. The earliest Greek physicians, Melampus, Chiron, Esculapius and his sons, lived in those ages of Grecian history when men were congregated from all parts of the world; when Phœnicians, Egyptians, Phrygians, and Babylonians mingled together, and imparted to each other the wisdom of their respective countries. In addition to this, without doubt, the intercourse and acquaintanceship between men of different nations, encouraged travel, and facilitated the acquirement of knowledge. Melampus travelled into Egypt. There is no reason to deny, but there are good circumstantial reasons for supposing—that the other physicians of those early days had access to the most perfect sources of instruction, either in foreign countries, or through the medium of foreign instructors. The very perfection of the science of physic, as it is displayed in what is known of the practice of Melampus, and of Esculapius, indicates no ordinary, or accidental sources whence they derived their knowledge of their art. Their practice was such as bore the marks of age and maturity, and such as could be obtained in no accidental way, nor in any brief time. The decay which overtook the science of medicine in Greece, as soon as the country became older and more settled, and communications with other countries became more unusual,—and, where they did exist, were continued only for purposes of

plunder or traffic, or, occasionally, for purposes of legislative improvement—also, is evidence insurmountable, that it was built up in the first place, of material from without. It perished in its season and none supplied its place. Hence the brilliancy of medicine among the most ancient of the Greeks,—hence its early and abrupt extinguishment.

The knowledge of the early fathers of Greek medicine, was indeed extraordinary. Possessing unsurpassed facilities for acquiring what was known throughout the different countries of the world, concerning the science of medicine, they were bound in its application by no superstitious observances, or arbitrary rules of practice. They had the privilege of concentrating medical knowledge, and, unlike the Egyptians, of uniting medical practice. The attention that they bestowed upon diseases, as they were presented in natural groups,—as diseases of females, surgical diseases, and diseases of miscellaneous characters, showed in them, a degree of enlightenment in medical science that may well command the admiration of all posterity; while the peculiar circumstance of their living in an age when the Greeks were engaged in great common enterprises, afforded to them opportunities for displaying before a united people, the triumphs of their art, and of thus securing a universal reputation.

It should by no means be supposed, that physic was not extensively practised in the comparatively dark ages of its Grecian history, that intervened between the time of the Trojan war, and that period when it broke out into new splendor, in the maturity and decline of the Grecian nations. But the condition of medical art, from a period shortly after the expedition against Troy, and the beginning of the troubles with Persia, was imperfect, and of little respectability. Practice degenerated into superstitious rites, and depended upon the interpretation of oracles, and the most trivial, and ridiculous deductions from accidental occurrences of various kinds. When it was attempted to practise medicine upon rational principles, at all, it was confined to the application of remedies said to have been used by Esculapius himself, some of whose prescriptions were preserved in temples dedicated to him, and were engraven upon tablets of marble. To this blind and unphilosophical routine, the existence of which betrays an ignorance of the great principles of health and disease, upon which all rational practice of medicine depends—there were but few additions made

for several centuries; and of what there were, it is doubtful if many were of much value. It is true, no doubt, that much true knowledge, possessed by Esculapius, and probably by other ancient physicians of repute, was preserved in these temples; but it was of comparatively little value, as a guide in medical practice, without an understanding, on the part of the practitioners, of the elementary principles, upon which the prescriptions were themselves founded. In the later periods of Grecian medical history, the true value of the legacy of medical knowledge left by Esculapius, was appreciated. When Hippocrates turned his attention to medical investigation, and the doctrines of the Pythagorean school began to occupy the attention of men, and exert the influence it did upon all the learned—either directly or consciously—then, the real wisdom of Esculapius, which was before acknowledged in a dim and indefinite way, became fully understood, and its practical benefits realized. Then, the wisdom and power of the god of medicine was found to be human, and useful and applicable,—and the Greeks learned from Pythagoras and from Egypt the true wisdom of Esculapius; and the real advancement which his energetic and generalizing mind had made upon the miscellaneous knowledge of his Egyptian and Phœnician cotemporaries.

LONDON HOSPITALS.

LONDON, 31st October, 1856.

The number of new faces at the different hospitals who have come to attend the Winter Session is really most astonishing, and I have learned that the entries even exceed those of the most prosperous years. This year I heard the Introductory at Guy's at 2, and at St. Thomas' at 8; both were good, and different from the ordinary run of this class of Lecture. At Guy's Mr. Thomas Bell opened the Session; he is President of the Linnean Society, Secretary of the Royal Society, and a man highly distinguished for his scientific attainments. Mr. LeGros Clarke had the agreeable task of officiating at St. Thomas'. The very decided advantage of an opening Lecture in the evening is that it is always followed by a conversation and refreshments of a character to produce a comfortable feel about the inner man.

It would seem as if the pent-up vigor of most of the London surgeons is reserved for the first

week of the Session, as at this time operations begin to be plentiful. Now I cannot do better than to give just *one week's* operations, beginning on Monday the 6th October, and during this eventful week, the number of poor fellows who tumble down in a syncopal state from witnessing their first operation, is really not a small one; reminding me of the time when I saw blood first spilt in the General Hospital at Montreal, on the occasion of two legs being amputated, without chloroform in those days, when my old and highly intelligent friend Sc——t tumbled down with others.

Monday.—At the Royal Free, Mr. Thomas Wakley polished off a new nose for a woman, at which kind of operation he is quite expert and has had much experience of. The patient had a new nose made for her by him two or three years ago, but in the process of healing, as the end of the original nose had been left intact, a contraction ensued about three-quarters of an inch above the tip, which presented an appearance as if a string had been tied around it. The old cicatrix was dissected up and the nose pared to the tip, the flap was then pulled downwards and fastened by means of sutures, and the result was really a most capital nose, and by no means a bad looking—a regular smeller. This was followed by the removal of a tumor from the parotidian region of a man by Mr. Grant, and a fatty tumor from the arm of a female by Mr. Weedon Cooke. This day, although not the special field day at Bartholomew's, Mr. McWhinnie performed lithotomy on a young man, who, four years before, let slip into his bladder a pencil of red sealing wax, which became bent and formed the nucleus of a stone. He had been a sufferer from gravel, and to relieve the irritation he passed this wax up and down the urethra till it suddenly disappeared.

Tuesday.—Mr. Cock—the Veteran Cock as he is called by the students—at Guy's, took off a leg above the knee of a woman, for total disorganization. This is one of the best operations for a student to see the first time; the spilling of the blood produces a very sickening feel on the untutored ones, and there were several faints and turn-outs. Mr. Hilton removed a carcinomatous breast, in a terrible state of ulceration, but solely to oblige the poor woman, who was determined to have something done, to afford even a very temporary relief. Mr. Cock then excised another, but in a more suitable case, the breast being in an indurated and painful state, without much external manifestation. This was con-

cluded by what I heard a fellow say next to me, making a poor fellow half a eunuch, which was accomplished by Mr. Cooper Foster, a very rising young man, who was only the other day elected assistant Surgeon. I believe there were one or two others but did not remain to see them.

Wednesday. — Excision of the knee was done by Mr. Henry Thompson, the newly elected assistant Surgeon, at University College, on a young man, for old dislocation and utter uselessness of the limb. This operation has lately been creating a stir in the minds of Surgeons, from the series of resections which have appeared in the *Mirror of the Lancet*. It is well worthy the consideration of the profession in the Canadas. The operation itself is really one of the most simple in surgery; it has been my good fortune to have seen it done now, about 15 times, and it is much less difficult than an amputation. Mr. Erichsen ligatured the internal saphena vein in six different places; three above and three below the knee, passing a long pin through the skin, under the vein, and then applying the twisted suture over a piece of bougie. In the course of a short time, the vein becomes obliterated, and is divided between the pin by subcutaneous section—four divisions for the six pins. He then removed a small tumor from near the orbit; another in the submaxillary space of a girl, the size of a peach; it proved to be glandular. He operated on two cases of perineal fistula, one complete in a female with an ischio-rectal abscess. He removed an exfoliation from the skull of an old man. Phymosis in a little boy was then remedied. At St. Mary's, Mr. Baker Brown did his now well-known operation for ruptured perineum. Scrofulous tumors were removed respectively from the neck of a child and an adult by Mr. Ure. For the first time in England, Mr. Baker Brown operated on a case of vesico-vaginal fistula by means of the plans of Dr. Bozman of Montgomery, Alabama, which very possibly is familiar to your readers, although it is quite new in this country. Of all the methods which have ever been seen or tried by Mr. Brown or myself, it promises to be the most successful. Mr. Coulson then performed perineal section in a case of multitudinous fistulæ in perineo from extensive stricture of the urethra, and this was followed by a case of retention of urine, depending upon a tight stricture, which he had not succeeded in relieving by a catheter as he could not get one in. On the operating table, however, under chloroform, he got in Symes director, and

performed perineal section, passed a large catheter with ease into the bladder and drew off a very large quantity of urine, something like two quarts and a half. These operations were very appropriately concluded by cutting out a testicle of a sweep affected with chimney sweeper's cancer, by Mr. Walton, the same patient having warty excrescences on the eyelids, probably of the same nature, and very rare to find thus co-existent.

Thursday. — Mr. Curling, at the London Hospital, performed lithotomy on an elderly man, and removed a flat oval calculus. He next amputated the leg of a little girl with enchondroma of the calf, which extended to the deep structures. He commenced the operation with the intention of simply removing the growth, which had been done some years before, in this girl, but the deeper structures were so much involved, that amputation seemed the only course. Phymosis in a very young boy depending on gonorrhœa, was then remedied by a modification of Ricord's recent operation. At St. George's a leg was amputated by Mr. Cæsar Hawkins, an arm by Mr. Cutler, and lithotomy performed on a child by Mr. Tatum. Mr. Pollock operated upon a child with cleft palate successfully, completely closing the fissure. To-day also (although Wednesday is the regular operating day) Mr. Quain at University College, performed excision of the knee-joint (now about to become an extremely fashionable operation), on a young man, a sufferer for three years, without much apparent disease externally. He then removed a piece of necrosed bone from the head of the tibia in one patient, and a painful cutaneous tumor from the leg of another. And lastly, amputated the hand above the wrist for extensive scrofulous disorganization of the carpal and metacarpal bones. At the Middlesex, there were several operations, but I have not learned what they were.

Friday. — Is not now an operation day, unless at one of the eye hospitals, of which I do not intend here to speak.

Saturday. — Always a regular field day. At King's, Mr. Fergusson performed excision of the elbow upon a girl, making but a single line instead of the H incision, and done in his usual, clean nice manner. He then tied a nævus on a child's forehead; operated upon the hare-lip of a child; removed by dissecting it completely out, an enlarged bursa the size of an orange from a woman's patella; excised an epulis from the inner side of the left alveolar ridge of a woman's upper jaw, going through the

steps, somewhat as for excising the jaw, namely, slitting up the lip at the mesial line, then turning it into the left nostril, and reflecting up the flap to give plenty of room. The epulis was then removed with a pair of bone forceps. Mr. Bowman extirpated the eye of a child for a malignant disease, which protruded about two inches, and assumed a grey color not unlike a horn from the drying of the secretion.

The Saturday following Mr. Fergusson tied the external iliac artery in the presence of 300 persons, and excised the knee-joint in another case.

At Bartholomew's a fatty tumor was removed from the iliac region of a man by Mr. Stanley, who likewise operated upon two cases of strangulated hernia, which happened to come in, one of them strangulated only five hours, the other fourteen days as it was said. It is becoming a rule in London to operate a very few hours after strangulation has commenced, by which means you will reduce the hernia without opening the sac; that was the result in the five hours' case. And I saw a similar procedure adopted by Mr. DeMeric at the Royal Free Hospital, where strangulation had existed but six hours, the wound being returned without opening the sac. Mr. Lawrence then amputated the thigh of a little boy for disease of the knee-joint; and in the wards, Mr. Stanley performed perineal section on a man whose scrotum and abdomen were infiltrated with urine from a rupture of a strictured urethra.

St. Thomas' was inaugurated by lithotomy on a young man by Mr. Simon, and a second case was about to be operated upon by Mr. South, but on careful examination by several of the Surgeons, it was discovered the stone must have vanished of its own account and nothing was done, fortunately for the patient. Mr. Solly treated a case of varicocele by tying the spermatic veins, and straightened a bent and partially ankylosed knee under chloroform. Lastly, Amussat's operation of making an artificial anus in the loins was done by Mr. Solly, upon a man who had obstruction of the lower bowel from cancerous disease; this was the second of the kind done by that Surgeon in nine months.

At the Westminster I was unable to glean what was done, although I know there were several operations by Mr. Holt, Mr. Holt-house, and others. One was the removal of almost the entire tibia from a boy, for necrosis; and another, a case of stone in a little girl aged 5 years, which was removed by Mr. Hill-

man with the aid of a Weiss' dilater and forceps.

At Charing Cross Hospital, Mr. Hancock was commencing amputation of the thigh for most extensive disease of the femur; but he found it extended up to the joint itself, the bone being riddled and soaking in pus almost its entire length, as well as the soft structures in a fearful condition. He therefore had immediate resource to amputation at the hip-joint, which was speedily and beautifully performed. The man was going on well after it, but the result is doubtful. This is the second case we have seen during the year 1856; the first by Mr. Curling at the London Hospital, in the early part of the year. There were several other unimportant operations here.

Enough is now mentioned to afford your readers an idea of what a man can see here who desires to become a great practical Surgeon, even in the short space of a single week. It has been my peculiar fortune to have witnessed operations that are seen but once in a life-time; which drop in like falling meteors, and leave a lasting impression never to be forgotten. I will instance the tying of the abdominal aorta, just above the bifurcation of the iliacs, a few months back, by Mr. South. The external iliac I have seen tied 6 or 7 times, three times within, I may say, as many months: two out of three with success. I must bring this long letter to a close, and will merely say that, if the recounting of a week's operations has extended to such a length, it will be an impossibility to give you more at any time, than the cream upon the surface, of what is seen by so many in this wonderful metropolis.

I may add that a large hospital called "the Great Northern" has very recently been established close to the Great Northern Railway Terminus, King's Cross. It is intended to accommodate 300 in-patients and will have a regular staff of medical officers. — *Montreal Med. Chron.*

STONE IN THE BLADDER — GUY'S HOSPITAL, LONDON.

John H——, aged seventy, admitted April 9th, 1856. He has suffered from great irritability of the bladder, and has had symptoms of stone two years and a half, the stone being readily detected by the introduction of an instrument on admission.

May 20th. — The patient being placed un-

der the influence of chloroform, Mr. Hilton performed the usual lateral operation, and extracted two stones, weighing 190 grains, composed of uric acid, circular in shape, and nearly an inch in diameter, but flattened. After the operation (which occupied from first to last about four minutes) he complained of pain, and was ordered twenty minims of laudanum.

21st. — The patient passed a comfortable night; the urine passes freely through the wound.

22d. — Extensive infiltration of urine into the scrotum and surrounding cellular tissue has taken place. Incisions were made in the most depending parts. Ordered bark, ammonia, and wine.

23d. — Slept well during the night: tongue coated with a brown fur; complains of great thirst. Ordered brandy, in addition to the other stimulants.

24th. — Tongue dry and tremulously protruded; great thirst; vomits frequently; pulse 90, irregular and feeble; wound and scrotum looks dark and congested.

The patient died on the 25th.

Post-mortem Examination, twenty-two hours after death. — Rigor mortis well marked. Entire scrotum in a state of slough. Abdomen: the intestines appeared generally healthy; no pus in the cellular tissue of the pelvis, which appeared rather soft and of a dark color; slight infiltration of blood around the bladder; Liver and kidneys fatty. Ureters not dilated. Bladder much contracted; coats hypertrophied and slightly diseased. Lungs softer than natural, readily giving way on pressure, and contained an increased amount of serum; pneumonia of the dying present. Heart: aortic valves thickened; excess of fat externally.

STONE IN THE BLADDER OF A BOY FOR FOUR YEARS; LITHOTOMY; EXTRACTION OF A MULBERRY CALCULUS; CURE.

(Under the care of Mr. Cock.)

The patient in this case was a lad, George P——, aged fifteen years, of healthy aspect, who had had the symptoms of stone for four years. He suffered very little inconvenience from the presence of the stone, and nothing whatever was wrong with his urine. On the 1st of July Mr. Cock performed the lateral operation, the patient being under the influence of chloroform, and extracted a mulberry calculus the size of a walnut. We do not remember having ever witnessed a stone that so much resembled an actual mulberry as this one, either

at an operation or in a museum, and it attracted the attention of all who saw it. The progress of this case was very satisfactory indeed, permitting of the departure of the lad from the hospital on the 21st of July, cured.

STONE IN THE BLADDER OF A STRUMOUS CHILD, WITH WELL-MARKED SYMPTOMS FOR EIGHT MONTHS; LITHOTOMY; CURE.

(Under the care of Mr. Callaway.)

The symptoms of stone in this little patient were those so commonly met with in children, but perhaps somewhat aggravated by the possession of a very delicate and weakly constitution. Notwithstanding this, the operation proved satisfactory, thus confirming the assertion that it is one of the most successful in surgery at the early periods of life. A similar one performed by Mr. Lawrence at St. Bartholomew's on the 12th of April on a child, from whose bladder a stone the size of a large bean was removed, proved successful. Another case at St. George's on the 20th of March, by Mr. Cæsar Hawkins, on a boy, also terminated well. In fact, recent examples could be multiplied of cures in children by lithotomy. The following case is an abstract of the notes of Mr. Holmes, the dresser of the patient: —

Arthur P——, aged two years and nine months, living at Lambeth. He is a weak, strumous-looking child. His mother states that he was very healthy for about eighteen months after birth, after which time he began to decline in health, losing his appetite, and becoming very weak. About ten months ago he had an attack of paralysis, affecting the upper and lower extremities, which continued for three weeks, after which time he recovered, and has not had a similar attack since. Eight months ago his mother first noticed that he had great pain and difficulty in micturating, the urine sometimes dribbling away, and at other times passing in a full stream, and then suddenly stopping. The patient was habitually pulling forward the prepuce to ease the pain. After the last drops of urine had passed he used generally to cry violently. He complains of thirst; tongue moist and slightly coated.

June 16. — The patient being placed under the influence of chloroform, Mr. Callaway extracted the stone by the lateral operation.

26th. — The urine all passes through the penis; wound healing.

The patient went out quite well. — *Lanc.*

A RUSSIAN NATURALIST.

June, Monday Morning.—Soon after breakfast Charles came into my room where I was journalizing, and said a gentleman had called to see me. I told him to show him up. Said C., he is so very old, blind and infirm, that perhaps I might choose to come down to him. I went down, and found in the passage way to the parlor, a very, very old man, blind, and moving with great difficulty and apparent suffering. Said I to myself, what can this mean? It was quite early. Who, so old and infirm, has come out at such an hour, and in this far-off city, to see me? A gentleman stepped forward, and in very good French, — good to me, for I could understand it, — said that the gentleman before me was his excellency Dr. and President Fischer, at the head of the scientific institutions of Russia, &c., &c. I took a hand of the old gentleman, while Dr. Reynard, the superintendent of the Royal Museum, speaking English like an Englishman, and of the best manners of the gentleman, took the other, and we guided him very slowly to the parlor, three rooms off, and over waxed and well rubbed floors, which did not add greatly to the ease of progression. At length the great arm-chair was reached, and the Dr. seated. We had now a good long talk, and it was concluded that Dr. Reynard should take me through the Museum, that we should next visit the Kremlin, and last, that I should dine with Dr. F. at 4, Wednesday, and there meet Dr. R. We now proceeded to guide Dr. Fischer to his carriage, and with a gentleness which a peevish child would have been won by (and for which we had our aged friend's best, kindest acknowledgments), he was safely deposited in his carriage, and left for his home.

MUSEUM.—We were soon ready, and went, my English friends, and their *valet de place*, and my host and his son with me, Dr. Reynard in the first equipage,—all for the Museum. This is a fine building, and has many objects of great interest. Dr. R. confined himself, as our time was short, to some account of the Russian animals in the collection. Among these were a mammoth of Siberia, not *the* mammoth, for that is in the Museum of the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, nor a perfect one, but very interesting for its locality, size, &c. He showed me what he considered the most curious things in the Museum, specimens of soft parts, very well preserved,

of the Siberian mammoth, which was found in 1803, by Mr. Adam, on the banks of the Lena, in Siberia, lat. 70. "It fell from a mass of ice, in which it must have been encased for ages. So fresh was the flesh of the animal, that the wolves and bears were actually found eating it." It has been a serious question how this immense mass of matter had been preserved for so many ages? It must have been accomplished by the preservative powers of ice, and which is employed every winter in Russia in the preservation of animal food — for the market of that wide empire. Dr. Reynard showed us a bit of the skin of the mammoth. It was towards half an inch thick. He said he had presented Professor Owen, of London, with a very small bit, for which he had received that very distinguished professor's best gratitude. Dr. R. very kindly gave me a bit of the spinal marrow of the Siberian mammoth, and a specimen of the fat. I shall preserve these with the greatest care, as they are probably the only specimens of that extraordinary animal which may reach America. —*Physician's Vacation.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

[Communicated for the Medical World.]

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

(Translated from the German by H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M.D.)

CASES OF PNEUMONIA.

By Dr. Sigfried Kapper, of Dobriz, near Prague.

From the *Zeitschrift für Hom. Klinik.*

(Continued.)

II. *Pneumonia Crouposa.*

Maria Plawtez, about forty years old, of good constitution, but reduced by want and hard work, mother of several children, was attacked late at night on April 25th, 1855, by violent chills and subsequent dry heat. During the day she had got into a perspiration while cutting wood, having been, at the same time, exposed to a sharp North-east wind, and occasional light falls of snow. On the morning of the 26th there was pain in the right side. I was sent for, and found the patient in the following condition.

General Symptoms.—*Synochal Fever.*—

Congestive headache, with a feeling as if the head would burst. Face hot, with burning red cheeks, sparkling eyes; lips and tongue hot and dry; skin hot and dry, pulse nearly 100, no evacuation, urine dark red and deficient in quantity; thirst.

Objective Local Symptoms.—Respiration accelerated, with slight motion of the thorax. Auscultation and percussion revealed nothing unnatural. Abdominal organs normal.

Subjective Symptoms.—Deep-seated, piercing pain on breathing, at the lower part of the right lung. A long breath excites a dry, painful cough. The patient can only lie on the left side.

Diagnosis.—Probably pneumonia at its commencement.

Treatment.—Aconite, 3d dilution, 3 drops in 6 tablespoons full of water, one spoonful every 2 hours.

In the evening.—During the day patient had slept a little, perspired moderately, and reported herself as feeling somewhat more easy. But I found that the disease was increasing. The respiration was short, quick and difficult, the pulse unchanged as to frequency, but more tense, hard and full. No physical signs as yet. The pain had moved from the deep part of the chest to the posterior parts of the ribs. Cough short, dry and painful. Aconite was continued.

April 27th, A. M.—The night had been sleepless and unquiet, but there had been copious perspiration. Considerable dyspnoea. The right side of the chest is immovable. The patient can now lie only on the right side. In the posterior inferior portion of the right lung there is dulness on percussion and crepitant rale. Upwards, towards the scapula, there is tympanitic sound on percussion and puerile respiration. The same anteriorly, above the boundary of the hepatic region. Deep in the chest there is pain as from a heavy weight, and a piercing pain which extends to the shoulder. Painful cough, with tough, foamy, rusty-colored sputa, chine as yesterday, no evacuation.

Diagnosis, Pneumonia Verosimiliter Crouposa—I now administered *Phosphorus*, 2d dilution, 6 drops in 12 spoonfuls of water, 1 spoonful every 2 hours. The thirst was to be relieved with cold water, given frequently and in small quantities. Should the patient perspire, water was to be given like a medicine, 1 or 2 tablespoons full every 15 minutes.* An injection of tepid water was also ordered.

* I would take this opportunity to recommend this mode of administering water during perspiration. The diaphoresis is not diminished but increased, and the patient enjoys a beneficial refreshment.

April 28th.—Increased dyspnoea. In the posterior inferior part of the right lung, there is dull percussion, impermeability, and higher up, crepitant rale. Yellowish sputa. Icteric tinge and brownish—red cheeks. Tongue moist, with a delicate white coat. Sopor, with bland deliria. Plentiful discharges followed the injection. Urine high-colored. *Phosph.* 1st dilution, 6 drops in 6 doses at intervals of 2 hours.

April 29th. Complete hepatization of the right lung. Nevertheless the dyspnoea had diminished, the pulse was more quiet, no sopor, no delirium. Continuous perspiration. Otherwise as yesterday. Prescribed *Phosph.* 2d dil.

April 30th. No appreciable change in the physical signs.

May 1st. For the first time there was a copious sediment in the urine. Expectoration whitish, turbid, tough, stringy, mixed with *piliform branching coagulations*. Under the microscope this dentritic mass appeared plainly tubular, even in portions of the sputa where the branchings were not visible to the naked eye. Perspiration continued, with general feeling of improvement. *Phosph. contin.*

May 2d. The expectoration had been very copious during the last 24 hours; it was whitish, turbid, stringy, croupy, and sometimes streaked with blood. Dull sound on percussion and bronchial respiration under the scapula; lower down, tympanitic sound on percussion, and sub-crepitant rales. The pneumonia in the upper portion of the lung, which had set in later, was evidently less advanced than in the lower parts. The patient complained of no pain in any part of the chest, but the expectoration was difficult. I saw no reason for changing, and gave *Phosph.* 3d dilution.

From *May 3d* the resolution of the pneumonia continued slowly, but uninterruptedly. The sputa became yellow and compact, the physical symptoms disappeared, with the exception of some mucous rales, and on *May 9th*, I discharged the patient, recommending rest for some time to come, and a nourishing diet. The expectoration continued, to some extent, until *May 20th*, when it ceased entirely.

I have not reported this case as an example of a brilliant cure, for I consider it anything but that. But I was moved by two very different reasons. First, because this case gives evidence against a certain class of opponents of Homœopathy, who assert that it can be used with effect only among the higher classes, and under the most favorable external conditions,

its success depending on the most careful nursing and exact attention to diet. The patient in question enjoyed none of these advantages. On the contrary, I found her in a state of distress and destitution such as I cannot remember ever to have witnessed before. Her bed consisted of a bundle of straw on the bare floor, her covering was a large handkerchief and a few dresses. Nursing she had none, but her relations, on returning at night from their day's work, were in the habit of heating the low and narrow room to a temperature that was insupportable. It was with great difficulty that I could set some bounds to this practice. The patient's diet consisted of milk, thin soup, and—a few potatoes, which were brought to her by neighbors. Such conditions can certainly not be considered favorable.

Secondly, I have reported this case because I must confess its last half to have been a cure by nature, rather than by my art. I evidently made a mistake in continuing the *Phosphorus* after May 1st, and the protracted resolution and expectoration is owing to this error. The tendency to a slow resolution of the pneumonic product, and its croupy consistence, should have determined me at once to give *mercurius*, which even Schoulein recommends in such states. My perseverance in the use of a single remedy was, therefore, out of place in this case.

III. Pneumonia, or Menostasia.

Mrs. Steskal, 43 years old, married, but without children, living in comfortable circumstances, was seized, on the evening of March 4th, with chills, followed by heat and perspiration, having, during the day, walked a long distance through a violent snow-storm. The next day a pain set in at the lower part of the left side of the thorax, which shortened the breath, but without causing cough, which diminished during the day, but returned at night, accompanied by a repetition of the chills and the subsequent heat and perspiration.

March 6th. I was called, and found the following state.

General Symptoms. The patient is a quiet, gentle, feeble person. Lies resignedly on her back, as she cannot lie on either side. Appears as if exhausted and in great pain. Her menses, which generally flowed copiously for eight days, and were due at the end of April, had not appeared. Universal heat, accompanied by a chilly feeling. Thirst for cold drinks. Pulse 90. The copious perspiration

manifests at a short distance the specific menstrual odor. Tongue slightly coated. Constipation.

Objective Local Symptoms. The thorax has a quick, short, irregular motion. The left side moves less than the right. Percussion shows a small spot, slightly tympanic, at the posterior inferior portion of the left lung. At the same place there is distinct friction sound, but no respiratory murmur. In the vicinity of this place the respiration is harsh, almost bronchial. Respiration normal on the right side. Heart normal. Whitish, very foamy sputa, streaked with blood.

Subjective Symptoms. Cutting pain in the lower part of the left side of the thorax, moving up to the shoulder. A long breath causes a painful cough, which forces the patient to rise. In the abdomen, a feeling of fulness and pressure downwards. Also a bearing down feeling in the small of the back.

Diagnosis. Pneumonia circumscripta e menstribus suppressis.

Treatment. The patient's general appearance, the menstrual symptoms, and the continuous chills, determined me to give *Pulsatilla*. I felt justified in giving this remedy, as the pneumonic symptoms were not very urgent. Prescribed *Pulsat.* 3d dilution, 6 drops in 6 tablespoons full of water, to be taken in 6 doses in 24 hours.

March 7th. The night had been passed without sleep, but the menses made their appearance. The discharge was copious and dark-colored, and it was accompanied by constant bearing-down pain. The chills, with perspiration and external heat, continued. There was no change in the pectoral symptoms. *Pulsatilla continuatur.*

March 8th. The menses continued without any other change in the general condition. The patient expressed a desire for buttermilk, which I allowed her to gratify. *Therapia continuatur.*

March 9th. Everything just as yesterday. *Saccharum lactis.*

March 10th. The menstrual discharge is diminished, while there seems to be an aggravation of the pectoral symptoms. I recommenced the use of *Pulsatilla*, giving it alternately with *Byonia*, 3d dilution, a dose every 3 hours.

March 11th. Great improvement. The sputa are very foamy, but contain no bloody streaks. Menses again more plentiful. No chills, no perspiration. Diminished friction sound. Scanty urine, with sediment. Fine

sub-crepitant rale in the diseased portions of the lung. *Byonia*, 3d dilution, is continued alone.

March 12th. The menses again diminished, but without any painful symptoms in the abdomen. Friction sound almost imperceptible. Respiration more easy and without pain. Sputa as yesterday. The cough is more painful, is excited by the horizontal posture, and often causes the patient to apply her hand to the painful part. Urine very scanty.

March 13th. After three doses of *Squilla*, 1st dilution, given in 4 hours, the cough ceased to be painful. Sputa cocta appeared, and urine was passed in large quantities. The patient had left her bed when I made my morning visit. The menstrual discharge had ceased. The patient only complained of great weakness, and a superficial pain, as if just under the ribs. Gave a dose of *Bryonia*, 6th dilution, and the next day this pain had disappeared. Good diet was all that remained necessary for her complete recovery.

This case has only been reported on account of its connection with the catamenia. It was undoubtedly necessary to take the menstrual symptoms into consideration in this case, and the selection of *Pulsatilla* was, to some extent, justified in this connection. Still I am not perfectly satisfied with my treatment, but believe that *Bryonia* was the remedy indicated from the very beginning. It was indicated by the circumscribed, sub-inflammatory condition, and by the evident pleuritic affection, and its relation to the female sexual system adapted it to the menstrual difficulty. Still, even with this error, I believe that my treatment was better than a treatment with the unavoidable leeches, cups to the thighs, and tartar emetic mixtures.

[To be concluded.]

PROF. JACKSON ON ANIMAL LIFE.

BY I. M. COMINGS, M. D.

We have been highly pleased with the liberal spirit manifested by *The Medical World*, and feel assured that the noble sentiment put forth in your first number, will meet a response from all noble minds, "That you believe in the virtue of progress, and therefore open the pages of your journal to medical writers of every denomination throughout the United States, and that your individual opinion shall

not interfere with the freest expressions of those who differ from you on medical subjects."

Prof. S. Jackson has advanced, as he supposes, some *new* theories in Physiology in regard to animal heat. We shall show, however, that they were known and published to the world thirty years before, when the professor was a child. We shall make it appear, by quotations from an author as early as 1800, and a few years subsequent to that period, that the same theories were advanced which Prof. Jackson claims as original with him, and which he promulgated in 1837, so that while he disputes the priority of discovery with Dr. Carpenter, it will be evident that both these distinguished medical lights must yield to an American genius, and that they derived their notions from the same source which we shall mention.

In Prof. Jackson's Introduction to that admirable work of Prof. Lehmann on Chemical Physiology he says, "In the animal mechanism the heat, the equivalent of its mechanic nervous force is evolved by the oxidation, or slow combustion, chiefly of carbon and hydrogen in the blood. The oxygen is introduced into the blood by the process of respiration, and the hydro-carbons and carbo-hydrates, by the food, as oils, sugar, starch, &c., digested and prepared by the functions of the alimentary canal so as to be absorbed and introduced into the circulatory apparatus," &c., page 26.

Again, on pages 29 and 30, we have the following as the conclusions from the theory above: "From the above facts and views the conclusion is, that what are termed natural or physical forces are no more than modes of manifestation of one force, one agent. In 1837 I advanced this opinion, and in addition, the phenomena of living beings were to so great an extent identical with the ordinary phenomena of physics, that Physiology might very properly be designated as organic physics. In 1843, Mayer of Hielbron promulgated the same opinion, and Mr. Grove in 1850."

Thus we see these great minds are all advancing what to them seems new and important, as wonderful discoveries in Physiology; and yet more than 30 years before this period named by Prof. Jackson, and 50 years before Mr. Grove of London made known his views of animal heat, we have the following language in a little 12mo book, now lying before us. It is called, "New Guide to Health." The edition we have, however, is dated 1822, only 15 years before Prof. Jackson's claimed discovery, but that is amply sufficient to give

our author the palm as to priority of discovery. The author of that work writes as follows: "Our life depends on heat; food is the fuel that kindles and continues that heat; the stomach is the deposit from which the whole body is supported."—Page 8. Again: "Heat and air are properly the fluids that pervade and fill and actuate the body. Where heat is extinct, the animal is dead. The food taken into the stomach nourishes the system and keeps up that heat on which life depends," &c., page 106–200. Thus we might quote largely from this author, all to the same effect, showing conclusively that he advanced the same great Physiological truths many years before Professor Jackson became a lecturer on medical science.

It is true that the author referred to was not distinguished for his physiological attainments, or acquainted with the learning of the schools; but it is also equally true that he made known some important facts and ideas in medicine, that the learned world of the present day are recognizing as lying at the very foundation of medical science.

The real discoverer, like Harvey and Jenner, after 50 years of obloquy and ridicule, may have his discoveries and theories adopted by the learned and scientific.

MACON, GA., Dec., 1856.

SCALD HEAD, (*Tinea Capitis*.)

The following treatment will cure all cases of scald head, without regard to latitude or longitude, whether they occur in the country or in cities:—

R. Ung. Picis Liq. Parts ij.
Flores Sulphuris " j.
M. et. triti.

Before applying this preparation, the hair should be cut as closely as possible and the affected parts thoroughly washed with castile soap, after which, a thick coating of the ointment should be applied to every spot affected with the disease, and covered firmly with cloth (linen or cotton) and allowed to remain undisturbed for three days. The plaster may then be removed and the parts again cleansed with castile soap and perfectly dried with a soft cloth.

If the disease appears to be thoroughly subdued, a little glycerine applied to the parts once or twice a day for three or four days will be sufficient to complete the cure. In some

severe cases, a second or third application of the remedy may be necessary.

W. ELMER, M. D.

Dec. 16th, 1856.

P. S.—Will some physician give us as good a remedy for the cure of excoriated or nursing sore nipples, as the above is for scald head?

SCARLET FEVER.

MR. EDITOR:—The use of *belladonna* as a *preventive* of scarlet fever, has been by no means confined to *Homœopathists*. In the *sixth* volume of the *Charleston Medical Journal*, published five years ago, Dr. F. Peyer Porecher, one of the editors, and one of the most prominent old school physicians in the city of Charleston, S. C., and an active member of the American Medical Association, has *twenty-eight* pages upon the proofs for and against the use of *belladonna* as a *preventive* in this disease. In conclusion, he says, "I am decidedly in favor of the prophylactic power of *belladonna*." And again, he says, "If *vaccine* may modify *small-pox*, so may *belladonna* modify *scarlet fever*."

Any man, after such an investigation as Dr. P. has here given the subject, who will reject his conclusion, I think will not be likely to be convinced either by *argument* or *experience*. I have used *belladonna* as a prophylactic from the time this article was published. I have also used it in the *treatment* and cure of this disease, and in both cases I think it has done good service, and I shall continue to use it.

WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Washington St., 630, Dec. 29, 1856.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Each week makes an addition of some magnitude to the accumulating mound of books, pamphlets, circulars, and notices of all imaginable kinds, which are entitled to a respectful notice as soon as other things of a medico-literary character have been appropriately disposed of.

The Handbook of Chemistry, just published by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, already referred to some weeks since, as a work of merit, is to receive further comment.

The Practical Anatomist, &c., by J. M. Allen, M. D., from the press of Messrs. Blanchard & Lea, Philadelphia, very ungenerously slighted by those who know nothing of

its intrinsic value as a student's guide, is also in our book of remembrance, — for after consideration.

Very few medical works are sent East, as they should be. It is vexatious to be really obliged to send an order to New York or Philadelphia for books that ought to be on sale here. We intend naming, at a convenient time, the nearest places where the recent publications are to be had.

The great publishing houses of New York and Philadelphia very nearly monopolize all the business transactions in medical publications in this country.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 31, 1856.

IRREGULAR REGULARS. — One of the common charges brought against medical gentlemen who are known to differ in their therapeutic sentiments from those who make themselves needlessly unhappy about their neighbors, is this, — to wit — “they are not regular practitioners.”

What constitutes a regular physician? Those in the majority would most likely decide in favor of themselves. However, since the organization of medical societies in States and towns, those belonging to them, by general consent, are considered the regulars; and those who are not members of such bodies, irregulars. Fine talents, unimpeachable character and superior educational advantages weigh nothing with fraternities.

Are not most, if not all, the different state and county medical societies constituted upon this principle — “that all who differ from us are against us?” Some indeed deserve contempt, who might be in better standing; and scores are in the full tide of empirical success who, had they their proper place in the social scale, would be street scavengers. But excellent physicians and surgeons in these United States are branded as infamous, by those who have not a shadow of a claim to consideration beyond the fact that they are fellows of some medical society. Yet there is no place recognized as honorable by Anglo-Saxon discrimination, which they could not sustain.

Look at the picture by a light from another direction. Large numbers of medical students are annually graduated at reputable schools, who were esteemed for their virtues, commended for their attainments, and sent into the world's arena, clothed with the benedictions of their instructors, to reflect credit upon the faculties who examined them, and the colleges which conferred their diplomas. By an unaccountable mental process of reasoning, they adopt new theories;

consult what are denominated by their heretofore well wishers, heretical authorities; and in the sequel, perhaps, employ remedies which are unknown or forbidden by the medical oligarchy that would rule the minds of thinkers, as despots do the subjects of their government. A very large and respectable number of active medical practitioners in the United States, belong to this category, and are therefore unscrupulously denounced as irregulars, empirics, and outcasts from the medical fold.

Let this doctrine prevail, without any ameliorating-conditions, and what progress would ever be made in any direction? Harvey was cursed by the medical contemporaries of his time for being an innovator.

They did not relish the idea of having the blood sent out from the left ventricle of the heart and returned to the right auricle. No, they were scientifically determined that the vital fluid should flow out through the day to the extremities, and go back again at night when the body was in a recumbent posture! Galileo suffered severely for announcing the great fact, that the earth revolved about the sun, instead of the sun round the earth; and Jenner came near being sacrificed to the malice of the first medical men in England, who wrote him down an ass!

These examples are but a drop to an ocean of proofs that might be cited, to show how mistaken we may be in estimating the powers and the qualifications of those who differ from ourselves, not maliciously, but honestly — and it might further be shown, that exclusiveness, contracted views and belittling exactions in the way of an attempt to frown down those whom some are pleased to consider irregulars, builds up individuals, rival institutions, and promotes the prosperity of those to whom they refuse the right hand of fellowship.

THE BUST OF HAHNEMANN. — A patron of art, who is also a physician of Boston, while in Paris, procured a bronze bust of Hahnemann, the founder of the school of homœopathy, which has been placed in a bookstore on Tremont street for examination. We have seen it, and were impressed most favorably with the external cranial developments of the head. Any man with such a mass of brain, wherever born, or under whatever combination of adverse social relations, would make the world cognizant of his existence. Had Hahnemann turned his attention to law, commerce, politics or war, the welkin would have rung with his name. But he happened to concentrate his powerful mind on medicine, and the result is well known. There is not a civilized country on the globe, where his doctrine is not taught, and disciples are not steadily multiplying, to the immense disturbance of all the dry bones of those who neither tolerate inquiry nor allow that there can be a particle of merit in men or measures which run counter to their fossilized opinions.

It is unnecessary to ask the question how homœopathy is to be finally put down. We have nothing at stake in the matter; the press and the patronage of the people foster it, and history will record its triumphs. We neither understand the doctrine, or practice upon its precepts, but others do; and if it were possible to have them ostracized and severely punished for daring to deviate from an orthodox standard about which no two practitioners perfectly agree, the Black Hole of Calcutta would not contain as many as a vindictive spirit of intolerance would gladly thrust into the pit.

To return: The bust was executed by a master's hand to perpetuate the expression and physical organization of the cranium of a man of rare genius. There have been thousands of physicians, but only one Hahnemann. Scoff at his name; underrate his talents, ridicule his system and abuse his followers,—and Hahnemann will live, in books and monuments, longer than any medical writer of this age. The roots of the tree he planted, are striking deeper and broader. He cannot be annihilated by any act or combination of forces, that malice or vituperation may array against his memory.

So strong is this prejudice that some excellent gentlemen even despise this beautiful work of art,—a simple bust of a man who is destined to immortality even in this world!

How puny,—aye, contemptible,—to see a little popinjay with a mustache, peeping through an eye-glass at the broad open forehead of that metallic trophy, and turning up his nose with the air of a distinguished individual who “hates homœopathy, and above all, the fellow who invented it!” Could the bust have understood the crushing remark, think its bronze cheeks would have blushed with confusion? It is dreadful to be denounced by an Æsculapian fop, in his grand defiant attitude of contempt. Should the owner of this splendid head of Hahnemann present it to a medical institution, he would hazard the contingency of having the gift declined, to be consistent. Such is the power of prejudice.

This democratic country is less liberal than any kingdom in Europe in regard to medical sentiments.

There stands the bust,—had he been a general, Hahnemann would have been hated by inferior generals; an architect, and he would have reared a structure superior to St. Peter's. He could not be otherwise than a man of mark, and yet he has been shamefully misrepresented, because his advent obliged a class of indolent medical philosophers to think, at a time when they preferred to repose on imaginary laurels.

HEALTH VS. WEALTH.—Fine spirits, a good digestion and refreshing sleep are the sustaining pillars of health, while men are systematically industrious. When their wealth enables them to relax in their accustomed bodily activity, on account of the greater de-

mand upon the brain to keep what they have, and get more by their wits than they could by their hands, the aspect of things is wholly changed. There are blue days, disturbed slumbers, apoplectic tendencies, vexations of soul, and unlooked for miseries where the imagination has assigned the abode of perfect felicity. The poor man will rarely need physic, while he earns his bread by the sweat of his brow. The possessor of ten thousand a year, however, with princely means, cannot purchase exemption from gout, palsy, dropsy or even the exactions of old age.

TOBACCO.—There is no article so universally consumed, in all parts of the world, as tobacco, by all races and all classes. In the United States, where it is cheap, the consumption amounts to three-and-a-half pounds per head each year; in England, where it is taxed with a heavy duty, the consumption is about a pound per head. Last year, in that country, duty was paid on tobacco to the extent of thirty millions of pounds weight; in the United States the production is equal to two hundred millions of pounds weight. It is an article easily grown; flourishes in the West India Islands, at the Cape of Good Hope, in British India, Ceylon, and in Australia. Even Canada could be made to produce good tobacco; and it is well known that the climate of Ireland is peculiarly adapted to its cultivation.

France is largely cultivating the “weed” in Algeria; Spain, in Cuba and the Philippines; Holland, in Java and the East; in short, from the Torrid Zone to the Temperate of the British Islands, there is hardly a spot where this universally-used article might not be produced. The profits on its growth are enormous, amounting, it is said, even in the most indifferent seasons, to at least one hundred per cent. A connoisseur in the article, who represents the French Government in Algeria, has recently made a report to Napoleon's Minister of War, in which he declares that the tobacco of Egypt, Macedonia, and Greece, is inferior to that of Algeria; that the tobacco of Hungary is not so agreeable to the taste; that the tobacco of Kentucky is not so fine, and does not burn so well; that the production of Maryland is more bitter; and, in a word, that the French tobacco of Algeria is the finest and best on the face of the earth. We believe that this statement must be received with considerable allowance. It has been held, that the finest tobacco is a mixture of the United States article and tobacco the produce of a country within the tropics, or near the tropics; for while the former has too much essential oil, the latter has too little, and that by combination, the peculiar qualities of each are brought out without being impaired.

We have alluded to the facilities which Ireland presents for the growth of tobacco. A special act of Parliament was passed years ago, making the growth illegal in that country. This had reference, we presume, to the temptation which the cultivation would present for the evasion of the duty. But if Ireland be really adapted for the cultivation of tobacco, no more difficulty need be found, we presume, in levying the duty than exists in such of the counties of England as grow hops. With all the care which the government officers exercise in the ports of the three kingdoms, a large amount of imported tobacco finds its way to the consumer without payment of toll to the Queen's Exchequer, and means might easily be devised, we con-

ceive, for making the law even more stringent than it is. At all events, no good reason, that we are aware of, can be assigned why people at home, like those abroad, should not devote their attention to the produce of an article so remunerative and in such general demand.

The above is from an English source, but none the less interesting for having a foreign origin. It is quite enough to discourage anti-tobacco leagues and agents. The latter get a very good living by discoursing upon the awful effects of smoking and chewing,—while the consumers are annually increasing.

It would be a curious item of statistical knowledge, to have a published catalogue of all the persons in New England, with their salaries appended, who subsist by portraying the evils of society. It is a distinct vocation to be an alarmist and agitator; as Mr. Unit says in the new play of Self, "*it pays well.*"

A NEW HOSPITAL.—Mention has heretofore been made of the efforts making to organize a free hospital for the poor, in the city of Boston. A query has been running through the medical ranks of the younger members of the profession, whether it would really and truly be open for all physicians, to have a turn of being one of the medical officers?

Of course we have no ambition in that direction, or particular feeling in regard to the subject, beyond a hope that a hospital may be established for the very laudable object contemplated in the petition. But it behooves the coming-on physicians and surgeons of the city, those who will be old in years, by and by, if they never are in practice, to secure for themselves the honor as well as privilege of being allowed to participate in the advantages that will accrue from such an institution, should it ever have existence. If they are remiss, or timid in asserting their freeborn right, they may live neglected and die unlamented.

Young America is bold in political contests, but lacks energy in securing a just division of medical privileges. A few determined, front-rank soldiers of fortune get the whole; while the quiet and unobtrusive are turned off with nothing.

EXTREME MEDICAL CONSERVATISM.—Politicians have this motto—*measures, not men.* Those cautious medical applicants for fame who dare not whisper an opinion of their own for fear it might interfere with their personal prospects, as all depends on being on excellent terms with every body, *go for men,* but not measures. Consequently those timid, apparently extremely conservative physicians are the most selfish of men. They are strong in demolishing, but too much occupied to assist a professional brother in rising. They are amazed at the presumption of any one who advances a new theory, attempts an operation not common in the neighborhood, or writes a paper which may possibly excite remark. Such things ought not to be tolerated in well regulated society, according to their policy. If there is to be a display of originality, genius, brilliancy, or discovery, it must come from a distance.

GOING INTO THE COUNTRY.—A change of scenery has the same beneficial influence upon individual health, as a change of diet. Seeing the same objects in the same places, year in and year out, is as bad for the mind as one kind of food would be for the stomach. The intellect can never be fully developed by the one, or the body by the other. *God made the country, but man made the town,* says the proverb. Then go where the grandeur of creative power is displayed. Send little children into the fields, at least once a year, and the oftener adults make excursions to the mountains, from their comfortable dens in the city, the happier they will be, and the better fitted for contending with each other in the contest of buying, selling, and getting gains.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PROF. GROSS.—Having read, with much satisfaction, the introductory lecture of Samuel D. Gross, M. D., the recently appointed professor of Surgery in the Jefferson Medical College, which abounds in pleasant reminiscences and historical memoranda in regard to the institution to which he has been called, we shall acquaint our readers, hereafter, with the good points.

Rumor reports a new work, nearly ready for the press, by Dr. Gross. It was a fortunate selection for Jefferson Medical College when that eminent surgeon and distinguished professional author accepted a chair.

MEDICAL DISCOVERIES.—Some one has had the effrontery to assert that the most recent medical discoveries consist in proving to a demonstration, that no real discoveries worth a pin, have ever been made, which contribute to the prolongation of life, that would not have been accomplished by nature, unaided by physicians. Such independence of speech is sometimes heard in a mad-house, but never in a company of medical philosophers!

MARRIAGES.

Samuel R. Stephens, Esq., to Miss K., daughter of John Sickles, M.D., of New York.

At Waverly, Tenn., Dr. F. Peabody, to Miss R. F. Roberts. In Boston, Dr. Leonard S. Herrick, to Miss S. McNally.

Edward D. G. Smith, M.D., Newark, N. J., to Miss Baldwin, of New York.

DEATHS.

At Leominster, Mass., Dr. Fredrick A. Smith. He was sitting in a chair, in his usual health, when he was seen to fall, and soon expired. He was a young man, but 26 years of age, and had resided in the town only about three months. Dr. Smith was the son of Professor Smith of Dartmouth College a gentleman of fine talent and amiable manners. He was married some six months since, to a grand-daughter of Ezekiel Webster, the talented brother of Daniel Webster.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

JANUARY 7, 1857.

NUMBER 15.

PHYSIOGNOMY OF THE HUMAN FORM.

[Concluded.]

The judgment to be formed from the size alone of a head can be only very general: in all but its main points it must be conditional on the proportions of the chief divisions of the head, and on the form of each of them. In general it may be held, that a large head, *i. e.* one which evidently exceeds the average of twenty-one inches, or three modules, in circumference, will indicate a masculine mind, a cerebral, plethoric, and choleric constitution; an energetic, physchical, and sometimes melancholic temperament; while a small head will, as usually, indicate a feminine mind, a sensuous, feeble, and lymphatic constitution; a sanguine, elemental, and sometimes a phlegmatic temperament. In heads of similar construction the larger will generally mark the more powerful mind; and, among different races of men, the larger-headed are those with the greatest mental superiority. But to enable us to form a more precise judgment, the proportions of the parts of each head must be examined.

In all cases, the degree in which either of the three main divisions of the head preponderates over the other two will mark the chief force and prevailing tendency of the mind. A well-formed large head, in which, with a general good proportion of all its parts, there is some predominance of the forehead, is always symbolical of great mental power, and particularly of great intellectual power. Even genius is often disclosed by such a head; especially the scientific genius, which manifests itself in the apprehension and mastery of a great abundance of ideas. Such must have been the head of Aristotle.

When in a large head there is a more than usually dominant development, and a full and

high arch, of the mid-region, we have a sure symbol of a mind in which the feelings predominate over the other faculties. Such are the heads of fervent men, who devote themselves with earnest zeal to art or to religion, the men of warm heart and of deep feeling.

And, again, the large head, in which the strength and chief mass are in the hinder region, marks the character which is distinguished by work and practical ability. These are the heads in which the mental strength of the mass of a people shows itself; the heads of a race, not of philosophers, nor of poets, nor of men of high intellectual or moral power; but of men with strong and earnest will, rough and elemental, and from whom, in future generations, we may be sure will spring persons whose names will become historic.

The large forehead which is especially broad, indicates, if it be well modelled, a capacious, wide-expanding intellect, capable not only of holding crowds of ideas, but of apprehending each of them clearly and distinctly, and of retaining them in strong, sure memory. The large, high-forehead, on the other hand, represents the power of the mind in following out one and the same train of ideas. Napoleon I. had one of the most remarkable large foreheads of this kind. The notion of the correspondence between the size and development of the forehead and the powers of the mind is so universally recognized, and seems to be proved by such an infinity of examples, that there can be no doubt that it has its basis in truth.

The high-raised mid-region of a large head symbolizes ardent feelings that are apt to be concentrated on one object, and commonly on a supersensuous one; feelings prone to superstition or to fanatacism. A broad mid-region in a large head discloses rather those warm feelings that direct themselves with all their force to definite realities.

Again, when the head is large, a preponderance of its hinder part in height, rather than

in width, indicates concentration of action and strength of will for some one fixed purpose; while a preponderance in width, rather than in height, marks the strength of will excited by external things — the strength of propensity rather than of intellectual fixedness of purpose.

These last rules are illustrated particularly by that form of head which, according to Carus, is especially frequent in Britain, and the merit of which is proverbial — the large, long head, with both forehead and hind-head remarkably elevated, indicating intelligence and practical ability, while the feelings are subordinate.

A large head, then, on the whole, augurs well for the mind that it belongs to; but, to make it certainly significant of good, many conditions must be fulfilled. There are just as many, on the other hand, by which heads that are, within certain limits, below the average of size may vindicate for themselves something better than that "small esteem for small heads" entertained by the older physiognomists, as well as by many of later date. Form, it must be always remembered, is symbolical as well as size; and excellence of form may compensate for some defect of size, though no size can compensate for error of form, or for that egg-like smoothness which, in comparison with the undulations of the well made head, may be called the absolute negation of form. If proportionate largeness of head, without regard to shape, were always characteristic of mental power, the child's mind should have more power than the adult's.

In the interpretation of small heads those rules hold good which have just been stated respecting the several imports of the three chief parts of the head. It speaks as well for these as for the large heads when the chief development is in the forehead. If the large heads thus well-formed are often symbolical of genius, the small ones are as often symbolical of talent. A frontal development always gives a small head superiority over a large one in which the forehead is defective. Women with heads thus formed have ascendancy over men, notwithstanding their naturally smaller brains; and among both men and women, very considerable minds have been often found acting in small heads with dominant frontal regions. Raphael, Charles XII., and Frederick the Great are instances.

On the other hand, heads that are altogether small, and have the forehead even less developed than the other regions, are most

commonly found in those who, for want of the restraining and guiding powers of the understanding and the reason, are moved by every breath of wind, and are apt to give way to immoderate excitements of feeling, or to desires of every kind. "A great part of the misery of society issues from these heads," says Carus. They who have them are not indeed, to be regarded as positively bad, or naturally prone to crime, still less to any special crime; for, in favorable conditions of life, with good training, and removed from great temptations, they may live very harmlessly, and be, in some measure, useful members of society; but they are not to be expected to rise above this; and, if they lack these advantages of life, they will be either insignificant or worse.

The foregoing symbols in the head — the capital symbols, as they may be well called — are such as can be measured and expressed in numbers. Others, less general and not less clear, are to be found in forms of the surface which can be better measured by the expert eye and touch.

Those forms may be excluded from our study which are due to disease or to artifice. Among the natural diversities of form, the chief symbols are in the contrasts between smoothness and variety of surface in the several parts of the skull. The general significance of smooth and level surfaces as implying emptiness and dulness, and of undulating surfaces as symbolical of active life beneath them, has been already referred to. In the head the natural inequalities of surface are forms produced only in its later development, concurrently with the development of mental power. Smoothness and simplicity are natural in the child's head, and in it are beautiful and may be hopeful; they are consistent with mere prettiness in woman; but as symbols of the adult mind, they indicate, at the best, one that is child-like and feebly developed.

When the surface of the skull is not thus smooth, we must distinguish between inequalities which are angular and abrupt and those which are curved or undulating. If we compare a well-formed human skull with that of any brute, the contrast is scarcely greater between their respective sizes than it is between the succession of smooth surfaces and abrupt projections in the latter, and of alternating gentle curves rising and falling in the former. If the human skull has any abrupt projections at all, they are almost always at its hinder part, where the least noble parts of the human mind are symbolized. And, generally,

the more the human skull approaches the features of the brutal in angularity of surface, the more does it indicate a degradation of the mind.

The varieties of surface should be studied, like the dimensions of the head in each of its three chief vertebral divisions.

In the forehead, where the varieties of surface are most numerous and most significant, five principally different symbols are to be traced.

Certain foreheads are smooth, featureless, with one uniform arched surface from the orbits upwards. Such a shape always augurs badly for the intellect; but peculiarly it does so when the forehead becomes narrower as it ascends. They who present foreheads of this last shape may be only feeble-minded, vacant, "empty-headed;" they may be only child-like in intellectual simplicity; but many of them have too little of the higher mental force to control their lower passions, and the shape is, therefore, frequent among criminals. It is no better augury when a forehead, of whatever size, is all flat — "complete perpendicularity from the hair to the eyebrows is," as Lavater says, "the sign of a total want of understanding." Nor is it better when the forehead is bowed with one strong arch overhanging the face: "Such foreheads," he says, "belong to feeble and contracted minds, and which will never attain to maturity."

Secondly, there are foreheads in which the chief elevations of the undulating surface are on the median line — most marked, therefore, in the very profile. These elevations decidedly exalt the expression of objective force of intellect in a forehead whose general dimensions are good, and provided the hollows between the elevations be not too deep (for all such deep hollows bear the impress of feebleness, symbolizing vacuity within). It is of the well-formed foreheads of this kind that Lavater says, "Always consider as the sign of a clear and sound understanding and of a good complexion, every forehead which presents in profile two proportioned arches, of which the lower advances." Such arches are the symbols of acuteness of observation, of thoughtfulness, and the habit of reflection. They are generally developed late, and are especially masculine forms. The child's forehead, in one of its most beautiful shapes, has a single prominent arch, rising up its middle line, and reaching onwards to the mid-region of the head. Such an arch in the adult, unvaried by alternate curves, and extending to the region of the feelings, will indicate a child-like mind, kind-heart-

ed, trusting and amiable; it may be often seen in gentle and benevolent people, especially women.

A third variety of foreheads includes those in whose undulating surfaces there are two chief lateral elevations, two well-marked frontal prominences. These strengthen that expression of analytic power already assigned to the broad, expanded foreheads; they symbolize the sharply discriminating, analyzing intellect. They are much more frequently well-marked in the male than in the female head — as, indeed, are all the strongly-marked, undulating forms of the forehead — a fact which may seem to accord with an ungallant sentence of Lavater, that he does "not love to employ this term," that of a *thinker*, "when speaking of the female sex. The most rational women are little, if at all, capable of thinking."

In a fourth variety of foreheads the chief elevations of surface encompass the upper borders of the orbits. These elevations correspond with the prominent orbital margins of the keen-eyed animals and birds; they indicate the degree of development of the sense of sight, and the corresponding psychical character. They are frequent in the clear-sighted observers of nature; in good painters from the life; in those generally whose organization is especially fitted for occupation in the world of light. The deep-set eyes, overhung and guarded by the prominent brows, are as if that natural expression were fixed with which, transiently, we knit the brows, and feel as if we drew back the eyes when we would see clearly into anything; and in this likeness they properly symbolize the mind that, with natural power and inclination, looks out into the visible world. Their opposite is in that less depth of orbits, and less dominance of the sense of sight, in which the eyes look large and prominent, gazing but not fixed, and like the eyes of one listening. In these, as Gall, in his first cranioscopic essay, rightly discerned, are the signs of verbal power, in so much as they are a mark of the mind naturally directed to the world of sound and speech.

And, lastly, we see foreheads chiefly characterized by elevations at their sides, tending towards the ears. Some foreheads, of whatever other shape or size, are, in their temporal regions, and just above them, nearly flat; others here swell out; and this prominence of the fore-brain towards the ear symbolizes a mind especially influenced by sound. It is strongly marked in the heads of Liszt, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven.

In the mid-region of the head, varieties of modelling rather add to or detract from the significance of its various dimensions than serve in themselves, to symbolize the mind. When beautiful modelling is added to large size and elevation of the top of the head, one will seldom err in suspecting the existence of strong feelings, inclined, perhaps, to the poetic or fanatic. When the same part is low and narrow, or flat, it implies a cold, prosaic, passionless nature. When there are elevations at the sides of the mid-region of the head they corroborate the indication of large size as symbolical of feelings turned towards realities; and at the same time, as they tend more or less towards the ear, they symbolize timidity and caution:—"For the ear, as, on the one hand, it may be called the organ of profound understanding of the world entering into man, so on the other hand it is evidently the organ of fear. The animals with sharpest hearing are the most timid, as the most keen-sighted are the boldest; and as the direction of the higher intelligence to the ear may lead to finer sense of music, so is it, on the contrary, clear, that a strong determining of the region of the feelings through the ear is apt, with a general defective energy of the mind, to awaken fear and carefulness, and to lead a man to constant, anxious foresight." — *Carus Symbolik*, p. 169.

Thus it is that we find in cautious, timid people the mid-head strongly arched above the ears; while in the careless and light-hearted the same part is always small.

Lastly, in the modelling of the hind-head, we may trace chiefly the symbols of the infinitely various power of the will in its two principal relations. The more raised the upper half of the arch of the occiput is, and the more prominently (if not too harshly) modelled, the more does it indicate force of the intelligent will. The more the same characters are seen in the lower half of the arch, the clearer is the sign of organic or mere instinctive will, or of mere propensity. The soft, gentle roundness of a hind-head, if the size be good, always indicates a quiet energy of the intelligent will. If the size be defective, the same form marks feebleness of will. A hind-head with strong prominent angles as constantly signalizes hard and rough self-will.*

* Unwilling to interrupt the foregoing summary of the craniology of Carus, or to obscure it by another set of terms, we have not referred to the numerous instances in which, as he admits, his conclusions agree with those of Gall and his followers. The differences between them are seldom those of contradiction; but the statements of Carus are always the more general, and, as phrenologists will think, the less satisfactory and less complete; neither does

In studying the fixed forms of the head we, as it were, look through its coverings; but these are themselves not unmeaning. The skin, especially that of the forehead, tells somewhat, by its various modes and depths of wrinkling, of the habit and chief occupation of the mind; and by the study of these the old art of metoposcopy "had something in it." But these, like other transient or habitual expressions, are not to be considered here; the curious may find the best account of them in Lavater.

There are less changing and less easily alterable symbols in the HAIR. They are not, indeed, of the first rank in significance; yet they are not inconsiderable, whether as corroborating by their conformity the augury of other parts, or weakening it by their contrariety.

Indications of the hair-symbols may be traced in the general differences that it presents at different periods of life, and in the two sexes, and in the several races of men; and the apparently greater variety of the capacities and dispositions of men in the most civilized races may be represented by all the characters of the hair being so much more various among them than among the less civilized.

In these numerous varieties, long, soft, and light hair, which is the more natural to women and children, will in a man betray a feminine or a childlike character; and dark coarse hair in a woman will reveal her hard and too masculine nature. In a man dark coarse hair symbolizes strength and firmness, in whatever direction may be indicated by the rest of his organization. Generally, the coarseness or the fineness of the hair is the signal of an analogous solidity or delicacy of mind. Brown and black hair are chiefly seen in those of active character; red and blond hair are oftener associated with a certain passiveness (an observation certainly not made in Britain.) Red hair (Lavater relates) characterizes a man singularly good or singularly bad; and, he adds, "a striking contrast between the color

he attempt to decipher, in particular forms of the head, more than a few of the special directions or inclinations of the mental powers, of which phrenology professes to have found and measured the several organs in the brain. It is not our purpose to discuss the relative merits of the two craniologies, or to try to determine with what degree of truth practised phrenologists can discern, in the form of the skull, minute differences of mental character. But, if the general doctrine of symbolics of the human form be true, it is evidently sufficient to explain whatever truth or certainty there is in phrenological practice; and we might believe in the possibility of discerning characters with great accuracy in the shapes of heads, though holding, as we do, that the phrenological division of the cerebrum into the assumed "organs" is utterly inconsistent with physiology.

of the hair and the color of the eyebrows inspires me with distrust."

Natural loss of the hair in men often indicates a richly productive power of mind. Its abundance and persistence late in life betray poverty and inactivity of mind. "Long hair, little brain," says the Turkish proverb. Often, too, the manners of wearing and dressing the hair are significant of character; but they cannot be generally or safely studied as symbols, because the modes of hair-dressing are swayed and generalized by fashion, instead of being guided by the instinctive art which would lead men to display the most prominent features of the individual character.

It is chiefly in the symbols of the FACE that we have to distinguish carefully the three groups already often mentioned: those, namely, which are transient, and imply only the present or passing state of the mind; those which are habitual, or inwrought by frequent repetition; and those which are unchanging, inherent, and, in the fullest sense, natural. Of these three groups the last alone is to be here discussed. They are such as depend partly on the form of the skeleton of the face, partly on the form and qualities of its soft parts in repose.

In general the upper half of the face has the symbols of the intellectual character and the feelings; the lower half, those of the propensities and the will. In general, too, as already explained, the nose is chiefly and primarily symbolical of varieties of intellect; the eyes, of varieties of disposition; the mouth, of varieties of sensuous character. Moreover, the nose, as the headpiece of the organs of respiration, has a symbolism accordant with theirs, representing by its size and fulness of form the activity, courage, and energy of life; and the primary symbolism of the mouth, especially of its lower part, is confirmed by its being the head-piece of the digestive organs.

Of this mystic triad of features let us take first the NOSE, and collect the interpretation of its symbols, not from Carus alone, but from the author of the "Notes on Noses," and from the older physiognomists. The agreement among them is, on the whole, very striking; and many of their observations, though independently made, afford such mutual confirmation as can hardly be explained, except on the belief of their being true.

A first division of noses includes all that are, in proportion to the face, too small, *i. e.* all such as are decidedly less than one-third of the length of the face, or less long than the

forehead is deep. The varieties of these are numerous in the snub, flat, retroussé, and up-turned, or celestial noses. The natural types to which they are generally referable are either the little noses of children or the flat, broad noses of negroes; and it is consistent with this that in men of civilized races all such noses indicate defective intellectual power; and do so with a certainty of symbolism which nothing but excellence in the form of the head, as in the case of Socrates, can neutralize. They tell of an unfinished intellectual development; and the lower and flatter and more snub they are, the more certainly do they indicate feebleness and meanness of intellect, and of a mind in which bad temper more than good judgment will have sway. It is not quite so with women. In them the whole organization, in its gradual development diverges less than that of men does from the almost similar form which they both have in early childhood. The retention, therefore, of the little child-like nose implies no such grave defect in the woman's mind. If her head be well formed, such a nose may express *naivete*, or, perhaps, smartness of wit and dexterous intelligence. But even in women such noses need to be associated with good features. If they are not, they add much to the expression of insignificance or even of coarseness.

The thicker and larger forms of snub nose in either sex commonly indicate the predominance of the material sensuous character; and a turn-up nose with wide obvious nostrils is an open declaration (so far as a nose can make one) of an empty and inflated mind; of a mind in which there is but the spurious imitation of that strength and loftier pride which the wide nostrils in a well-formed nose might indicate.

Large noses, in men, are generally good signs: especially, they add emphasis to the good indications of a well-formed head; but they must not be too fleshy or too lean. If they are long (yet short of being snout-like), they mark, as prolongations of the forehead, the intelligent, observant, and productive nature of the refined mind. If Roman, arched high and strong, they are generally associated with a less developed forehead and a larger hind-head; and they disclose strength of will and energy, rather than intellectual power; they show also the want of that refinement which is indicated by the straighter nose. The Jewish or hawk-nose commonly signifies shrewdness in wordly matters; it adds force to the meaning of the narrow concentrative forehead,

symbolical of singleness of object; and its usually narrow nostrils wear the unfailing sign of caution and timidity. The Greek straight nose "indicates refinement of character, love for the fine arts, and *belles lettres*, astuteness, craft, and a preference for indirect rather than direct action." (Notes, p. 9). "Perpendicular noses, — that is, such as approach this form, ... suppose a mind capable of acting and suffering with calmness and energy." (Lavater, iii. 364). A nose slightly bifid at its end, extends and corroborates the indication of the analytic forehead. Such noses, large and broad-pointed, are frequent in men with acute practical knowledge of the world. The same bifid end is often seen in the cogitative or wide-nostriled nose, wide at the end, thick and broad, indicating a mind that has strong powers of thought, and is given to close and serious meditation. With these symbols, Lavater's *dicta* fall in: "A nose whose ridge is broad, no matter whether straight or curved, always announces superior faculties. I have never been deceived in it, but this form is very rare." And again, "A small nostril is the certain sign of a timid spirit."

The thick fleshy nose tells its own tale, and sometimes highly colors it. With a well-formed head, and lively temperament, it may shed on the face a falstaff-glimmer of easy sensuality and jovial humor; but what better than this can possibly be meant by a mass of flesh and blood heaped on what should be the very index of intelligence! The opposite of this form, the lean, sharp nose, if it be not due to the withering of age, or associated with a very well-formed head, tells only of the shrivelling of all the freshness of life; or a dry sagacity in the place of intelligence; of the negation of every fervent disposition, and a miserly, selfish adhesion to the empty so-called realities of life.

When the basil line of the nose forms an obtuse angle with the upper lip, the shortening of the nose connected with such a form implies less strength of character, but the form itself betokens gayety and cheerfulness. The opposite form, with a lengthened nose whose base forms an acute angle with the upper lip, is usually associated with melancholy, and fondness for gloomy thoughts.

In all the foregoing interpretations of large or justly sized noses, those of men are alone considered. In a woman, a large nose is of more uncertain augury; for it is apt to extend into caricature. If it be well-formed and finely modelled, a rather large nose, and especially

one which is nearly straight, or slightly arched, is, in a woman, often characteristic of excellent mental power. But any of the more peculiarly male forms of nose, if large and coarsely formed in women, denote a too masculine character; and those that are of ill omen in men are much worse in women, since the evil of being inappropriate is added to that of malformation.

The EYES, in the physiognomy of daily life, are, certainly, the most telling features of the face. They are so because no other part reveals so instantly, or so clearly, the various changes of the feelings; and because it is for these changes that men watch when they would learn their influence on others. But their deeper meaning, as signals to tell, not the movements merely, but the very character, of the mind, is mysterious and hard to read.

Primarily, the eyes symbolize the feelings rather than the intelligence or the will. The evidences of this, already cited, are strikingly confirmed by the relation of the eyes to the tear-glands. And many of their symbols become intelligible by comparing the human eyes with those of lower animals.

If we had a table of the proportionate sizes of eyes and brains in man and a large scale of animals, the proportion between the human eye and brain would hold nearly a middle place. Therefore, eyeballs which are neither very large, nor very small, have an animal expression; the former being suggestive of brute force, the latter of meanness and feebleness.

Again, in comparison with the eyeballs of animals, the human eye has, proportionally, the smallest transparent, and the largest opaque, or white, part; and, in the same proportion, it has a larger nervous expansion, a larger structure in direct relation with the mind, than the eye of any other animal. A small cornea, or transparent part of an eye, is, thus a proof that the retina or nerve-structure of the eye is comparatively large; and a large cornea proves a small retina. The mental character may be often measured by the retina; thus, an eye with a large cornea, and a comparatively small white part, give a strong but too animal expression; while an eye with a smaller cornea (if it be not extremely small) expresses delicacy, a higher sensibility, and spirituality. The ancients gave the former to their Juno (*Βοώπις*): the early Christian artists gave the latter to their figures of saints and angels.

Eyes set too near, or too far asunder, are alike animal in expression and in meaning:

the former are like the eyes of apes ; the latter like those of oxen, dogs, and horses.

It is not very rare to see one eyeball somewhat higher than the other ; if the difference be very slight, it is likely to mark a thinking considerate man, who looks at every side of a matter. When the eyes sink a little towards their inner angles, they denote warmth of mind directed to realities ; when they rise towards them, they denote a similar mind directed to the supersensuous and ideal.

A long opening between the eyelids, showing much "white," gives the eye an expression of taste and sensibility. A short high opening has a more animal look : it is usually associated with a large eyeball, and occurs especially in persons of athletic constitution, and choleric temperament, and great working power ; but a similar form may, as Lavater says, occur in feeble, heavy-eyed, phlegmatic persons. Short and small openings between the eyelids indicate feebleness and want of spirit ; but this must be conditional on what Lavater notes, — that when the inner angles are lengthened, acute, and pointed towards the nose, their possessor is either very judicious or very cunning. He adds, "When the eyelid draws itself almost horizontally over the eye, I usually expect a man of much acuteness, extremely dexterous, and of superior cunning:" and, "When the border of the upper eyelid describes a complete arch, it is the mark of a good disposition and much delicacy, sometimes also of a character timid, feminine or childish."

In the colors of the eye, both the white and the various tints of the iris must be studied. In a clear pure white we see, intuitively, a mind that might be so described ; a dirty or yellowish white makes us suspect the opposite character ; a white that is too blue, like that of a delicate child, is significant of an immature mind ; one that is blood-shot, if it does not confess to intemperance or overwork, suggests plethora and violence of temper.

Dark blue eyes are most common in persons of delicate, refined, or effeminate nature ; light blue, and much more, gray eyes, in the hardy and active. Greenish eyes have, generally, the same meaning as the gray : Lavater says they are, "in some sort, a distinctive sign of vivacity and courage." "Hazel eyes are the more usual indications of a mind masculine, vigorous, and profound ; just as genius, properly so called, is almost always associated with eyes of a yellowish cast bordering on hazel." (*Essays*, III. 338.)

The brightness and the dulness of the eye are as evident in their opposite meanings as are the contrasts of light and darkness. And scarcely less clear is the glance or flash of the eye, like a light, to illuminate and show the depth of meaning in every expression with which it appears. A volume might be written on it, inexplicable as it is, and in each person so inimitable by others, and therefore so characteristic, that, as Carus suggests, instead of saying "Le style c'est l'homme," we might more justly say, "der Blick ist der Mensch."

Lastly, with the symbols of the eyes those of the BROWS must be arranged.

As marking the boundary line between the intellectual region of the forehead and the sensuous region of the eyes and cheeks, it is a general rule that the higher the eyebrows rise the more do they symbolize the encroachment of the sensuous on the intellectual nature ; the lower they are placed the more is the opposite relation marked. So, in persons of warm open heart, guided chiefly by their affections, we see generally the regular high-arched brow ; in profound thinkers, the lowered rectilinear brow. Generally, too, brows that are gently arched harmonize with modesty and simplicity ; those that are straight and horizontal with manliness and vigor. In the very melancholic, the raising of the inner extremity of the brow is often a natural and fixed expression. In those of restless, changeable disposition, or liable to sudden outbursts of passion, the brow is outstretched, not in a straight line, but undulating, as it were fluctuating and stormy.

As the only portion of the intellectual region of the face which at all answers to the strong hair which covers all the face in brutes, the eyebrows may, by excessive quantity, thickness, and coarseness, indicate a too coarse animal nature. If their form be good and their arrangement orderly, their abundance adds strength to whatever they import ; in other conditions, they indicate a mind that might be described in the same terms as themselves. Smallness of eyebrows always denotes defective force of character, and the more the higher they are placed.

Among all his fervent rhapsodies, Lavater has none more fervent than that in which he would sum up his thoughts on MOUTHS : "Eloquent even in its silence, this part of the body is so sacred in my eyes that I scarcely have the courage to attempt to treat of it." (III. 394). And, indeed, what may the mouth not symbolize, seeing that it includes two sense-organs, and the organs for the first process to which

our food is subjected, for occasional breathing, for speech and song and kissing?

The characteristic of the opening of the human mouth, as compared with that of brutes, is its medium size; and its transgression on either side of certain limits is at once repulsive by its deviation from exact humanity. A somewhat large mouth is manly, and denotes energy; one somewhat small is feminine, and a sign of less power.

In the two lips, the opposition of the upper and the lower halves of the face is repeated. In the upper lip the chief varieties of the higher psychical character are intimated; in the lower those of the more corporeal nature; and it is, therefore, essential to a noble face that the upper lip should extend beyond and govern the lower. In both, the contrast of the thick protruded lips of the negro and of the tense, finely-drawn lips of the Caucasian race may indicate the characteristics which belong to those varieties of form to which they are severally appropriated. So Porta sums up: "*Labia crassa stultum demonstrant*" (p. 208); and Lavater, "Fleshy lips have always a struggle to maintain with sensuality and indolence" (III. 397). Among the thinner lips, the best-marked forms are — the large, thin, indrawn lips of the dry, passionless men of intellect; the soft and beautifully chiselled, in those of refined sense and poetic nature; the tense and strongly-marked, in strong-willed men of practical ability; the lean and hard-lined, in the timid or avaricious.

In the upper lip, the best form is that in which it is itself short, and its connection with the nose is finely modelled. If it be deeply hollowed in the middle, it tells of wit and liveliness. A long upper lip, especially if its middle portion be prominent and swollen, is generally found in persons of rough nature. In the lower lip, one of the clearest symbols is its being upraised and compressed on the upper. Such a position of it when transient, indicates scorn or repulsion; when habitual or fixed by nature, it is a sure sign (in any but a toothless man) of a self-reliant, grudging temper, scornful or full of hate. In the same way the constant or general positions of the angles of the mouth may be interpreted by their likeness to those of which, in the transient expressions, the meaning is always clear.

The CHIN is an eminently human feature, and, by its characters in the several races of men, and in the animals which follow the lowest race of men, we may trace, as the chin retreats, the retreat from the predominance of

the nobler human faculties. This is especially true in men; for, generally, the fuller chin marks the manly character, the smaller chin the feminine. Of the three principal forms of chins — the retreating, the perpendicular, and the projecting — Lavater says the first may always excite a suspicion of some weak side; such chins have a negative import: the second may inspire with confidence, and, if deep, are signs of sagacity and reflection: the third, if not too pointed, denote acuteness and activity of mind. A chin deeply dimpled in its middle line has the same meaning as the slightly bifid nose. The accumulated flesh and fat that make the double chin distinguish the soft, plegmatic, and Boeotian nature; and for other forms we may thus enumerate Lavater's judgments: Angular chins are, generally, signs of sense, firmness, and benevolence; flat chins, of coldness and dryness; small ones, of timidity; round and dimpled ones, of goodness.

To conclude the symbolics of the face, we ought to write of those of the cheeks, and the beard and other facial hair. But even a part of the great beard-question would be too large for discussion now; and the cheeks are chiefly significant in their corroboration of the testimony of the lips and chin, and may be passed by with only this observation, that the predominance of their size over that of the eyes, nose, and upper lip, will generally indicate the predominance of the senses over the intellect.

The EAR must have a fuller notice. It is far less expressive and less communicative than the eye; as it ought to be, to be in accord with the deep-concealed proper organ of the sense which is especially recipient of mystery. It is remarkably significant of this relation of the external ear that, in man, it is incapable of any of those active movements which, in animals, reveal so plainly the mental state. Still, even in complete repose, the ear may tell something of the mind.

Like many other parts, the ear has, in man, a medium size in proportion to the rest of the body. The extremes, of both largeness and smallness, indicate, therefore, a deflection towards the lower animal world: the former is often seen in idiots with ill-shaped heads. In less than these extremes, large ears, including all such as are longer than the nose, are signs of timidity and defect of mental power, especially when their upper parts are very large. They have their natural types in the large long ears of many timid animals. Small ears (if not extremely small) imply mental energy; their type is in those of the carnivora.

The thinning and levelling of the border of the ear, so that it is not turned over, has generally a bad import. It is animal-like; and, with an angular upper border, it gives the character of low sensuality, which the old masters painted in the ears of Fauns. A deeply and roundly sculptured ear is a sign of intellectual capacity; and one that is largely and broadly hollowed out often occurs in men with great plastic talent. Smoothness and want of contrast among the several windings of the ear imply feebleness of mind. Ears that stand out belong, generally, to persons in whom the sense of hearing is dominant, such as the musical, the mysterious, those with strong memories, and the timid. Close-lying ears are more frequent among those in whom sight prevails, as the light-headed, the reckless, the courageous.

The symbols which come next to be explained are those of the neck and trunk. There are indications for discerning them similar to those illustrated in the foregoing instances, and similar reasons for believing them. We naturally take them into our estimate when we are judging of a man from his appearance; and they are sometimes among the most impressive forms. Lavater ascribes to an observation on the turn of a neck the first germ of his studies. The likeness of two noses had, indeed, greatly impressed him, and made him very observant of forms; but it was the significance of the neck that convinced him. And he who believes that the body does symbolize the mind, and that nothing in nature is unmeaning, will find it hard to doubt that there may be, in all these parts, forms and habitual gestures through which some of the characteristics of the mind may be disclosed. But we shall pass by the symbols of the trunk, both because of the obvious difficulties of studying them, and because we want space for the fuller exposition of those of the hands and feet, to which Carus has devoted particular study.

The symbols of the HAND have no relation to the old fortune-telling chiromancy. The lines on the palm which that art professed to read may tell the occupation and habitual movements of the hand; and, because they are most deeply engraven in the harsh, dry skins of the phlegmatic and melancholic, they may tell somewhat also of the general constitution and temperament; but they can indicate no more than this. It is in the size and shape of the hand, and of its several parts, that we are to look for the real indications of the mind, of which it is at once so instructive and

so obedient an instrument. In these particulars it is a real hand-book, in which the character may be read almost as clearly as in his head or face.

We need not stay to point out the perfect humanity of the hand, or to tell all its distinctive features, the perfection of its utility, and the mathematical exactness of its construction. Its chief contrast with the paws that are most like it is in the fingers of these last being so short, in proportion to the length of the metacarpal part (*i. e.*, of the hand without the fingers and the thumb), or else in their being altogether so small. The bear's paw illustrates the first of these contrasts; and few things can mark intellectual inferiority more than do short convergent incurved fingers. The ape's hand illustrates the second; and mental weakness may always be suspected where, with a very small hand, the thumb is especially short and weak and apish. By similar comparisons may be interpreted the hardness and horny stiffness of the palm which one sometimes finds independent of hard labor or disease; the excessive brute-like growth of hair and nails before old age, and other similar signs.

The difference of hands, according to sex and age, are equally significant. The woman's hand, independently of the effects of different occupations, is naturally smaller, narrower, softer, less hairy, and more delicate than the man's, and its fingers are more roundly formed. When these characters are reversed, they mark, as clearly as any other misplaced features do, the similarly misplaced mind: they betray the too strong-minded woman, and the effeminate man. In advancing years, from childhood onwards, the changes of the hands are scarcely less significant and striking than those of the face, and they have the same meaning. Like the smooth round forehead, proper to the child, so the small, soft, delicate, childish hand, when it is retained in manhood, is a sure sign of a childish disposition, with no great intellectual gifts and no strength of will. And when, before old age, the hand is lean, bony, and dry, it indicates that want of warmth of feeling and of fancy, and that predominance of cold sagacity to which old age is naturally prone.

Independently of these general differences among hands, manifold, even thousand-fold, varieties of individual form are to be found. They may be described, in about four chief groups, by referring them to as many types of form. Carus adopts four, fusing some of those six which D'Arpentigny, the first true chiromanist, arranged. These four he names,

severally, the elemental, the motor, the sensitive, and the psychical hands.

Elemental hands are such as betray a certain approximation at once to the hand of the little child and to the paw of the most man-like brutes. They are distinguished by the metacarpal part being both long and broad; the palm large, thick, and hard; the fingers short, thick, and squared at their ends; the thumb stumpy and often turned back; the nails short, strong and hard. These characters are modified according to sex, having more of refinement in women, and of coarseness in men; but, in general, their chief feature is a coarseness, and, as it were, a want of finish, in the construction of the hand. And such hands symbolize a rough, unfinished mind, a mind slowly developed, obtuse intelligence, slow resolution, dulness of feelings. They are found especially among the common people; and combined, as they often are, with large though coarsely modelled heads, they represent the material strength of a nation, its work, its man-power. These make the show of hands at the hustings; these are the mighty unwashed. But they are found in higher classes, too; and there, though washed and gloved, and never seamed or hardened by approximate toil, the elemental hands betray the same want of mental refinement, the same rough unfinished nature.

The Motor hand, which is especially the male hand, is characterized partly by its great size, partly by its strength of bone and muscle, and its strong projecting joints and sinews. The palm is nearly square; the fingers longer than in the elemental hand, but very strong, large-jointed, and broad-tipped; the thumb especially strong, and with a full fall; the nails suitably large, and of elongated quadrangular shape; the skin of the back firm and strong, and usually but slightly hairy.

Such a hand symbolizes strength of will, and aptness for strong sustained efforts of mind. They who have such hands are likely to be less finely sensitive and less intelligent than resolute and strong-willed. The old Roman character might be the type of the motor-handed men; and the hands of Roman senators and emperors in works of art have almost always the genuine motor characters. The thumb, which is in all hands the most significant, because the most essentially human member, is especially so in these; its large size always symbolizing an energetic nature.

The sensitive is the proper feminine hand. It is never very large, and is often rather

below the module in its length, and all its textures are delicate. In the palm, length predominates a little over breadth; the fingers are not proportionally longer than in the motor hand, but the thumb is decidedly smaller, and much more delicate. The fingers are divided in soft and oval forms, with full-rounded tips; the nails, nearly equilateral, are remarkably fine and elastic.

Men with hands thus formed are generally distinguished by feeling, by fancy, and by wit, more than by intellectual acuteness and strength of will. They commonly are of sensitive, sometimes of psychical, constitution, and, generally, of sanguine temperament. But good specimens of sensitive hands are seldom found except in the higher and well-educated classes (the forms that are near the type will be mentioned presently); in the lower classes of northern countries they are seen only in women.

The Psychical hand, the most beautiful and the rarest of all the forms, is that which is most unlike the elemental and the childish hand. It is of moderate size in proportion to the whole stature. It should measure in its length just one module; the palm is a little longer than broad, never much furrowed or folded, but marked with single large lines. The fingers are fine, slender, and rather elongated; their joints are never prominent; their tips are rather long, taper, and delicately rounded; and they have fine nails of similar shape. The thumb is slender, well-formed, and only moderately long. The skin of the whole hand is delicate, and, even in a man, has but very little hair.

In their perfection psychical hands can be seen in only the bloom and strength of life. In childhood and in youth the form is not attained; in old age, it is spoiled by the comparative increase of the bones and joints and by the wrinkling of the skin.

Such rare hands are found with none but rare minds. They indicate, Carus says, a peculiar purity and interior grandeur of feeling, combined with simple clearness in knowledge and in will. And D'Arpentigny, speaking, as usual, of the hands as if they were the whole mind, says,—“Such hands add to the works of the thinker, as the artist does to the work of the artisan—beauty, ideality; they gild them with a sunbeam; they raise them on a pedestal; they open to them the portals of men's hearts. The soul, forgotten and left behind by philosophic hands, is the guide of these; truth in love and sublimity is their end, expansion their means.”

But, it must be repeated, good examples of psychical hands are rare, unless where, through many generations, the mind has been highly educated. When they occur among the crowd of men, they often mark those who fail, because an inner vocation to some higher and unattainable sphere of action unfits them for the rough handicrafts of the lower classes. D'Arpentigny believes that psychical hands are most frequent in Asia, in the countries of the Caucasian race, and that in Europe they occur most often in Germany; but Carus gives the honor (may we say the palm?) to England, especially to the English woman of the higher ranks.

These are the grand types of hands. But of hands, as of all other parts, the great majority fall short of the typical form, and have such intermediate or mixed forms, as must be interpreted by an estimate of the degrees in which they approximate to one or more of the types. The most frequent of all hands are such as are intermediate, or transitional, between the elemental and the motor or the sensitive. Those that make the transition from the sensitive to the motor type, in which, with a sensitive foundation-structure, there is a more motor character, and strength of the fingers and their joints, are the hands which D'Arpentigny called "artistic" and "useful." They are the eminently "handy" sort; and are often seen among mechanics, artists, and musicians. Transition-forms between the sensitive and the psychical are not rare; they may indicate a poetic mind, but they are especially met with when high training and refined care of the whole organism, and especially of the hands, have been maintained for many generations. These might be called the "well-bred," or the "aristocratic," hand; D'Arpentigny has named them "Mains de race." Lastly, transitions from the motor to the psychical form symbolize great thinking powers; they are the "philosophic" hands.

Whatever be the form of the hand, its significance will be modified if it be not according to rule in the characters appropriate to sex and age. For example, if a man have a feminine psychical hand, he will lack the grandeur and clearness of thought which the psychical hand should, in his sex, testify: and a woman with a manly psychical hand will want something of the complete beauty of the true feminine mind. So, as we have already intimated, the roundness, softness, and fleshiness, appropriate to childhood, will mark, whatever be the form of hand with which they are

combined, a comparative feebleness of character; while the leanness and dryness, that should be delayed till old age, will, in earlier life, tell of hardness and narrowness in the character, whatever it may be, that is symbolized by the general form of the hand.

The Foot has symbols very similar to those of the hand. On the general principle, that those parts, which present the most distinctive specific characters of man, are most significant of the human mind, none should be more symbolical than the feet, whereon Man rests and moves in that erect posture, in which he bears himself above all other creatures, and is *ἀνθρώπος*, the being with the upturned eye. Their forms are, indeed, various, and always characteristic: or, if less so than those of the hands, it is in those respects in which the hands, as being peculiarly sensitive organs, are more than the feet significant of the mind's sensibility.

Of course, all those forms of the human foot are indicative of a low mental state, which are like the feet of other mammalia. And the chief errors in this direction are,—the flatness of the foot (independent of disease), which makes it like that of a bear or other plantigrade; the diminutive size, in comparison with the leg, in which it lacks its characteristic fitness for supporting an erect body; and the narrowness, with shortness of the great toe, and defective projection of the heel, by which the contrast between man's foot and the ape's is lessened. These characters, by which the foot loses its human distinction, may be read in the same way as the corresponding lowered forms of the hand; and so may those in which the childish form is retained; or the womanly, or the manly, form is misplaced.

The typical forms of feet are described, by Carus, as the elemental, the sensitive motor, the pure motor, and the athletic motor. The elemental foot, like the hand of the same name, is that which, though it has grown to its full size and proportion, has not been developed beyond the childish form. It is coarse, plump, and clumsy; too flat-soled; short, broad, and fleshy. The ankles are thick and shapeless; the balls and joints of the toes are large. Such feet are commonly found in conjunction with elemental hands, and have the same import; they are the feet of the mass, singly powerless, in multitude mighty.

The motor-sensitive foot, corresponding with the sensitive hand, is the proper foot of woman. It is small, and smooth, and

slender ; a narrow foot, with but little projection of the heel, and no projection of the joints or sinews ; the ball of the heel and that of the great toe are not large or prominent ; the nails are small and finely textured. The ideal of this foot is in the Venus de Medici ; the caricature of it in the outstretched, flattened, ape-ward foot of the Negro. In a man, the sensitive-motor foot will stamp a feeble and effeminate character, unless it be associated with a well-developed and harmonious form of the head and of all other parts. Thus associated, such a foot indicates great elastic power, and energetic speed of action : such is the foot of Mercury in antique sculpture : and among different races it is most frequent (though with characteristic varieties in each) in the Negroes, Hungarians, Poles, and Celts, the which are nations most given to dancing. It is the form with which the sentiment of the ballet may be most perfectly expressed ; and in some of the antique statues of Minerva it is represented with a sharpness, simplicity, and grandeur, such as might claim for it the name of psychical and an analogy with the psychical hand.

The pure motor foot has the true medium form of the well-made foot, especially that of the man. It has neither the stumpiness of the elemental foot, nor the slenderness of the sensitive-motor, nor the great muscularity of the athletic ; but, avoiding all these extremes, it is, with variations according to sex, justly adapted to its simple purpose of supplying a well-formed, strong support for the weight of the body.

The motor-athletic foot is distinguished by its great size, its strength of bone, and its muscularity. It is typified in the foot of the Farnese Hercules. It always marks a powerful, athletic constitution ; and in its possessor we may look, perhaps, for vehemence of will, but not for the profound insight of the reason or the vivid creation of the fancy.

We have now placed before our readers nearly all that we think can be fairly said for the symbolics of the human form. We have seldom interrupted our statement with any doubts ; for with a subject in which every assertion is suggestive of discussion, it seemed the best course, first, to state it fully, and then to express a general judgment on it. Thus, then, we would conclude :

1. That in the general evidences adduced in the first part of this article there is sufficient foundation for the doctrine, that each man's mental nature is indicated or symbolized by his

bodily forms : by the forms, namely, not of one or a few, but of all, parts of his body ; and of these, not only in their gestures or acquired expressions, but in those fixed forms, which depend, at least in part, upon the skeleton.

2. That there is in most persons a natural faculty of discerning characters in the forms of their fellow-men ; a faculty which is capable, in certain persons, of being so cultivated that their judgments of character derived from it alone are very generally true.

3. That much is yet needed to give the study the rank of a science. Especially, the several observations of correspondence between mind and form need to be much more numerous and more exact, and to be expressed with specific detail instead of being confined to general statements. The exceptions which we may find to nearly every rule derived from them need also to be explained ; and the theory and the art require to be more closely bound together. Carus has, indeed, done something towards this end, by reducing many physiognomic observations to rules connected and consistent with those of physiology ; but much more remains to be accomplished by minds of a less imaginative tendency than that of Carus.

4. This want of sure connection between the theory and the art is, however, no proof of either. The same defect, though in a much less degree, is chargeable against all the studies that are occupied with life and mind. In all ages, for example, there have been truths in the science of physiology, and truths in the art of medicine ; and in every age it has been thought that the two were united by close bonds ; but in every succeeding age many of the bonds have been changed, the truths alone abiding ; and even now, those who are wisest hold by the science and by the art as branches of knowledge nearly related, indeed, and in some parts mutually supporting, but in many parts self-subsisting, and in some dissociated. So, we believe, it will long be with the art and the theory of symbols in the human form.—*Quart. Rev.*

Progress of Pauperism.—The number of persons in the hospitals, alms-houses, and other charitable institutions in New York, on the first of November, was five thousand eight hundred and thirty-six. Three-fourths of all these are diseased, maimed and beggared, and cast as burdens upon the tax-payers of the city, by her eight thousand hideous grog-shops, says one of the papers.

EPIDEMIC CHOLERA.

To the Medical Profession and Scientific Observers:—The undersigned, having been appointed at the late meeting of the American Medical Association, Chairman of the Committee on the Etiology and Pathology of Epidemic Cholera, respectfully solicits Etiological, Pathological and Historical data pertaining to disease, from the Medical profession; and Meteorological data from any person who may have them.

As a primary examination in investigating the cause of Asiatic Cholera, and its mode of travel, he wishes to be able to compare Meteorological data obtained when the disease was raging in any given locality, with those which were obtained when the disease did not prevail.

To make this comparison most complete, a full set of Barometrical, Thermometrical, Hygrometrical, Ozonometrical tables, with prevailing winds—and Electrical phenomena as far as obtainable—for a series of years, embracing those of health and disease, and extending over a large territory, are needed; but where full tables are not obtainable, partial ones, or reports, will be thankfully received, if the observations are accurate.

As Hygrometrical observations are extremely rare in the United States, the undersigned hopes that each person who has any, which may be of value in the present investigation, will forward them to his address, or inform him of their existence, and how they may be made available.

It is also hoped that every person properly prepared to keep Meteorological Registers, will spare no pains to make them as perfect as possible, and not fail to embrace Hygrometrical observations in their tables.

Tables now forming may be of real service to the Committee before the time expires for which it was appointed.

All data received prior to March 15th, 1859, will receive the attention of the Convention, and due credit be given in every instance for valuable information.

The subjects of investigation are of such vast interest to mankind, it is hoped the present request will elicit the hearty co-operation of the Medical Profession, and any other persons who may have, or shall hereafter collect matter of the kind requested.

It would seem that he should not hope in vain, when it is considered that Cholera is a

disease, which knows no political bounds, and frequently appears to regard neither geographical lines or sanitary cordons, and has already destroyed nearly, if not altogether, one hundred millions (100,000,000) of the earth's inhabitants.

Thus far, all with whom the Chairman has corresponded have most promptly proffered any assistance in their power, and at the same time expressed their warmest sympathy and regard for the investigation; but believing those with whom he is unacquainted may have data of the kind sought, he takes the present mode of presenting his wishes; hoping they may be complied with by all who are possessed of such data, and feel an interest in man's emancipation from disease.

Medical Journals, Literary Magazines, and Newspapers, friendly to the great interests of humanity and Medical Science, will confer a favor upon the Committee—and, it is hoped, upon the world—by inserting the above in their columns.

T. WINSLOW GORDON, M. D.

Georgetown, Brown County, O., Oct., 1856.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

This Society held its regular monthly meeting for medical improvement Saturday evening, December 27, 1856, in their rooms in Temple Place. The President, Dr. Channing, was *late*, and the meeting did not commence till twenty minutes past the time. The Doctor makes a good President, but, it is unpardonable in any presiding officer of a society to be late. A society should commence its business at the hour appointed, and if any officer can not usually attend at that time, he ought to resign, or the society agree to meet *when* he can be present.

The proposition about having *refreshments* at these meetings brought together double the number that were present at the last meeting.

The *Records* of the last meeting were read by the Secretary, Dr. Parks, when "it was found written," that *certain doctors spake several times, then and there*; and *some*, not at all. *The Records were approved.*

The first case spoken of was that of *Dr. Bowditch's* patient at the Hospital, (referred

to in an account of the meeting held a month ago,) with *typhoid fever*. He had died, and an *autopsy* revealed no *typhoid fever* in the case, but *meningitis*. How liable physicians are to be mistaken!

Dr. Cornell asked Dr. B. if he had ever known a case of typhoid fever where there were not *rose-colored spots* upon the abdomen or chest? Dr. B. said, "he had seen cases which he called typhoid fever where there were no such spots:" and the present was supposed to be one of them.

Dr. Moore related the case of a woman to whom he was called, *in labor*. The *os* was but little dilated; the membranes were early ruptured and the water discharged. The *os* still continued unyielding. Convulsions ensued, and the woman died. This case gave rise to a long discussion, in which many of the members participated. Dr. H. R. Storer thought rupturing the membranes at such an early period was bad practice. There were many, especially among the young physicians now in the city, who did not approve of this practice.

Dr. Moore said, "he was aware that the general rule laid down in the books was, not to rupture the membranes early. But there were exceptions to this rule. Dr. Buck made some very sensible remarks as to *when* the membranes should be ruptured early and when they should not. In general, he would not rupture the membranes early unless the *os* was well dilated, &c. Dr. Buck asked if there was pain in the *epigastrium* previous to the convulsions. Dr. Moore replied, no. Dr. B. said, he thought pain at the stomach was generally the precursor of convulsions.

The President followed in the same strain, and remarked that Denman, whom he considered one of the best authorities in midwifery, laid it down that *pain* generally preceded puerperal convulsions. He (Dr. Channing), had probably in his life seen from forty to fifty cases of convulsions, and had found *pain* at the stomach generally preceded the convulsions. Dr. Storer thought that an injection of antimony into the rectum would have relaxed the *os uteri*. Dr. Moore said he was aware that the *Thomsonians* had been in the habit of using injections of *lobelia*, in such cases, in their practice. Dr. Buck thought this mode of practice by the *Thomsonians* had done good—that women had generally expressed themselves relieved by such practice.

Is it not doubtful whether the injection of antimony is an improvement upon the Thom-

sonian mode of injecting *lobelia*? Are we progressing backwards?

Dr. Cornell asked Dr. Moore if ether or chloroform was given?

Dr. M. replied, *yes*. Dr. C. asked if Dr. M. suspected that the *anaesthetic* caused the convulsions. Dr. M. thought not. Drs. Buck and Channing remarked that they did not bleed so much as formerly.

What has produced this entire change in medical practice? Was it the *Thomsonians*, or the *Homoeopaths*, or both, or, the exercise of common sense?

Both Drs. Buck and Channing differed from young Dr. Storer as to the expediency of rupturing the membranes *early* in certain cases.

Dr. Storer was astonished that Dr. Channing had seen no more cases of convulsions in his long practice.

Dr. Channing remarked that, "in most cases of convulsions in lying-in women, they had previously eaten some indigestible substance, and in enormous quantities, and referred to many cases where such had been the fact." He named one, in particular, where, after an enormous meal, the physician had given laudanum. This case reminded me of the celebrated one of Dr. Danforth, in the Beacon street gentleman. The story runs thus. He was not fond of being called out in the night, especially to those who ate late suppers. He was called to this man, whom he knew to be a *high liver*; found him with colic,—asked, what he had eaten. The man replied, "Not much." "You have," said Dr. D. "Well," said the patient, "I ate an oyster supper last night." Turning to his wife, Dr. D. said, "And what have you given him?" "Not much," was the reply. "You lie, you have," said Dr. D. Well, she had given him a *teaspoonful of laudanum*. Turning to the sick man Dr. D. said, "*You have eaten the devil*," and to the wife, "You have locked him in, and he'll die before morning,"—and he did.

Dr. Storer related the case of the wife of a friend of his who was absent in New York State. She was advanced in life, and was pregnant with her first child. Dr. R. told his friend if she had trouble, he thought it would be convulsions. In this case Dr. R. proved almost a prophet, for, the first news he had from the lady was, that she had *convulsions*.

Dr. Gould related the case of a lady, who came under his care. She had been treated for uterine disease in England, New York,

Philadelphia, Dorchester, and by all the most eminent physicians, *Dr. Channing* among the rest. *Dr. Gould*, also, treated her for the same uterine disease. *She died*; and, an *autopsy* revealed no uterine disease at all, but a perforation of the intestine just below the pyloric orifice of the stomach. *Dr. Gould* thought it singular that this perforation, being wholly below the stomach, should have caused vomiting.

Was it not singular that so many of the greatest doctors in the world, from England, Boston, Dorchester, New York and Philadelphia, should have all diagnosed this case wrong, and treated this woman for a disease which she never had?

Members of the Society were now called upon by name to communicate, if they had anything to say.

Dr. Abbot said his name was not called. He communicated a case of a man to whom he was called, who had hemorrhage, vomited blood, and passed it by anus. He found him asleep, and did not wake him, — left him some powders of gallic acid. When he called again the man was dead. *Dr. Abbot* did not know *what* he died of, or where the blood came from.

Dr. T. B. S. Jackson thought it *might have come* from several places.

The Society are to have refreshments at nine, P. M., after the next monthly meeting, when, no doubt, a full house will be present. There is nothing like *good cheer* to call the profession together.

MEDICUS.

THE USE OF FAT OR OIL IN CONSUMPTION.

BY WM. A. ALCOTT, M. D.

For several years past there has been a tendency among scientific medical men to reverse the treatment of consumption. Instead of the depleting and exhausting course, they have inclined to the nutritious and stimulating plan. Instead of relying on venesection, emetics, blisters, iodine inhalations, or *Ayer's Cherry Pectoral*, they have begun to prefer *nature* — pure air, healthful exercise, and plain but nutritious food.

Now all this, in my own view, is as it should be. It would be impossible for me to doubt, even for one moment, that this last plan, in its essential features, is the true one. But unhappily mankind are ever liable to extremes, and to run rapidly from one extreme to another. And

such, I am sorry to say, has been the course which a few medical men have taken with regard to the treatment of consumption. Under the influence of an impression that animal food is more nutritious than vegetable, and fat the most so of all, they have not only favored the use of flesh and fish, but of several of the oils when separated from the rest of the mass in which they are found. Not only cod-liver oil, but neats'-foot oil and whale oil have been recommended. The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal appears of late to have indorsed this idea, and by the introduction of a leading article in the number for the 25th of Sept. last, from the pen of *Dr. Thayer* of Keene, gives evidence of being strongly inclined to the opinion that "other oils, both vegetable and animal, have an equally good effect;" yet strange to tell, it comes out, more recently, in strong language, against "pork," and leaves us in utter confusion how to reconcile the use of oils of every kind, both animal and vegetable, with the entire exclusion of the oil of a particular animal though a filthy one.

But the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal did not originate this modern superstition — it only followed what others suggested. *Prof. C. Hooker* of New Haven, several years ago, came out very strongly in favor of the oil doctrine, and gave it a new currency, and one which I believe it never deserved. He even went so far as to affirm that most of the individuals who die of consumption are those who, in early and middle life, reject oils and fat meats — an affirmation which, however, he has never sustained by facts, though respectfully requested to do so.

It was under an impression that the subject was one which deserved discussion that I addressed the editors of the Boston Medical Journal not long ago, in an article of considerable length; but it was refused, on the ground of being too theoretic. "Give us facts," said the editors, "and we will insert them." Accordingly I withdrew the article, and wrote again, as follows:

"*Messrs. Editors*: — I value your journal too highly to be the willing instrument of occupying its columns with the discussion of a subject of merely secondary importance. But as surely as seventy-eight persons died of consumption in this city, during the comparatively healthy month ending Oct. 18, 1856, which is at the rate of almost a thousand a year. (and very many other portions of the country are but little behind us in this respect,) just so surely this terrible disease cannot be of that

description. It must even be of paramount importance to every citizen.

"The question I propose to discuss is not whether oil — cod-liver oil especially — is not better in phthisis than venesection, emetics, blisters, and iodine inhalations, on the one hand, and Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, or the Peruvian Syrup, on the other; for this question I suppose to be settled. It is not whether persons who use oil (for whale oil, neats'-foot oil, fat meat, and even vegetable oils, appear to have an effect similar to that produced by the cod-liver) do not improve, at least temporarily, under their use; for of this fact, too, we have the most positive evidence. But a more important as well as more practical inquiry is whether the improvement, in either case, is fairly attributable to the oil. It is certainly unphilosophical, as every sane medical man must admit, to seek for other and more doubtful causes of a given effect when we are already in full possession of such as are adequate.

"If it is said in the outset that my opinion is at variance with nearly the whole 'orthodox' medical profession, I reply that this remains to be proved. Some, I am aware, regard the positive and permanent good influence of oil in phthisis as fully established. Now, if it were so, why should the disease advance with such rapid strides, as well as increase in fatality? If medical men, generally, believe in, and consequently use, cod-liver oil, in phthisis — and with success — why is not a check given to its career? I deny, however, that they do *generally* — above all universally — believe in its usefulness. Dr. Jackson, in his 'Letters to a Young Physician,' though he devotes between thirty and forty pages to hemoptysis and phthisis, says not a solitary word about treating either of these diseases with oil, in any of their stages. Is this the result of mere accident? Dr. J., moreover, is not alone.

"It is said, I know, that in 400 cases of phthisis noted by Dr. Williams, the use of oil in 206, or more than one-half of them, was followed by marked and unequivocal improvement. But was not the use of the oil substituted for the usual depletive course — venesection, emetics, blisters, inhalations, confinement within doors, &c.? If so, the results were precisely such as should have been expected. That it *was* so, we are authorized to infer from the editorial remarks made on "hygienic and dietetic means," at page 232 of the present volume of your journal, as well as from the nature of the causes which led to these remarks.

"But while Dr. Williams is said to have made his selection of 206 cases from a list of 400, we are not informed how many hundreds of cases came under his observation, of which he chose to 'take no note;' nor how many hundreds or thousands there were who did not take the oil at all; nor what proportion of these cases proved fatal or otherwise. Nor have we very full and satisfactory evidence of the correctness of his diagnosis.

"In order, however, to make the quotation as favorable as we can to the use of the oil, we will suppose that only 400 cases, in all, fell under his observation, about one-half of which, by means of this and the abandonment of all depletion, with a careful attention to 'hygienic and dietetic means,' were benefited. Did the latter improve from the positive effects of the oil? or was it a merely negative result? They had survived the high-pressure system for a time — was it strange that they should seem to improve, at least temporarily, when the pressure was, a part of it, taken off? Did they not improve *in spite of the oil*, on the same principle that they had hitherto survived the severer medication?

"It deserves to be noticed, by the way, that in only 34 of these cases of Dr. Williams, or about *one-twelfth of the whole*, have we any decisive evidence that the *improvement* was *permanent*. That it was *not* so, I do not presume to affirm, however, but only that if it was so, Dr. W. has not informed us.

"Now you well know, Messrs. Editors, that under almost any treatment, and even under no medical treatment at all, a part of our phthisical patients will recover. Dr. Jackson says expressly that 'Phthisis is not always fatal.' And if neither he nor you should be surprised at the recovery of so small a proportion of consumptives as *one-twelfth*, under proper 'hygienic and dietetic means,' I certainly should. So, as I suppose, your correspondent, Dr. Thayer, would be, whose cases of recovery, as mentioned in your journal for Sept. 25, *every one of them*, where the improvement was permanent, were, for aught which appears on the face of his statements, benefited by the hygienic treatment, and not by cod-liver oil, or any other fat. Indeed, two of the cases most favorable to the oil-theory, were already in the use of cod-liver oil when they received his prescription; and were it of any service, should have been reaping their reward long before.

"The happy influence of 'hygienic and dietetic means,' in the treatment of phthisis, can

hardly be over-estimated either by Dr. Thayer or yourselves. I have prescribed for many hundreds, if not thousands, of the scrofulous and consumptive; some of whom, having followed out my directions with a good degree of care, have reaped a full reward in gradual, but final restoration. For the last twenty-five years I have given no medicine for phthisis—not even oil. And though I have not preserved my notes of every case which has come under my charge, I have preserved enough for ample illustration.

“But I must not extend this article—already too long—by the history of these cases. Some of them I propose, with your permission, to mention hereafter. I will only add, just now, that, according to my own observation and experience, a purely ‘hygienic and dietetic treatment’ will improve the condition of not merely one-twelfth, but of more than one-half of our consumptive or phthisical patients, even in very advanced stages of the disease; while it will improve and even cure nearly all, if commenced at a sufficiently early period.

“Boston, No. 20 La Grange place, }
November 1, 1856.” }

The foregoing, after having been in the hands of those to whom it was addressed some six or seven weeks, was recalled. There was indeed an apology for neglecting to insert it. The editors wanted *facts*; but then, too, they demanded short articles. Now I had found it necessary to say as much as I thought would be acceptable, on *preliminaries*, and had reserved my facts for a second article, as will appear by the remarks of the closing paragraph; so that I may have seemed to neglect, on my part, the stipulated conditions. However, I have no more to say on that subject. The question whether the use of oil and alcohol is admissible in consumptive cases is, as it seems to me, fairly up for discussion; and every medical man must be glad of it. And yet I cannot help thinking that though the open air, much healthy muscular exercise, and a plain diet, even if it should be accompanied by alcoholic drinks, oil and stimulating food, are far better as a whole than the depleting process which has been so long in vogue; and will save more lives, at least for a time. But I am compelled to believe there is a still more excellent way than either. Should curiosity be excited on the part of your readers, to know what are the general features of a practice which has probably prolonged more lives than any other, and which, whenever it shall be perfected and applied at the very first intimations of danger,

may probably prolong to a tolerably old age the lives of all, I will endeavor, ere long, to gratify it.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NO. VII.—BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

The Voice—Where formed—Power of Habit in Speaking—Much Culture required to make an Orator—Power and Beauty of the Human Voice—Aphonia—Clergyman's Sore Throat—Treatment—Written Sermons—Supposed Ignorance of the Clergy on the common affairs of life.

In a former number, reference was had to “the Clergyman's Sore Throat.” But some more extended notice of the voice, its formation, use, and disease of its organs, seems necessary. The voice is formed in the larynx. This organ properly belongs to the respiratory apparatus. Its structure is very complicated. Did we not know this from an actual examination of the organ, we should infer it, from the wisdom and design manifested throughout the whole animal organism, when we consider that two of the most important functions of life, viz., breathing and speaking, are accomplished through the instrumentality of the larynx.

It is a cartilaginous tube, or box, located at the top of the windpipe. The anatomy and physiology of this organ are exceedingly curious and interesting. At the base of the tongue, we find the *thyroid* bone—a bone shaped like the letter *u*. From this bone, a ligament passes to the *thyroid*, or shield-shaped cartilage. This cartilage does not pass round the *back* part of the larynx. The windpipe is surrounded by a strong cartilaginous ring, called the *cricoid* cartilage, and this is embraced by another, called the *thyroid*. Two cords, formed by the folds of the mucous membrane of the larynx, pass, the one above and the other below, the little hollow, called the *glottis*; forming a *buttonhole*-like opening between them, called the *chink* of the glottis. The voice is formed by the lower cords, which are made of the most elastic material found in the human body. The experiment has often been made upon animals to ascertain precisely where the sound is made, and has been found to arise from the *lower* cords; and hence these have been called the *vocal cords*.

It is wholly by the power of habit that we are able to contract, or lengthen these cords, so as to give a high or a low sound, by moving

* Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

in certain ways the muscles attached to them. When we consider what a difficult and intricate matter this is, it is truly wonderful that a child ever learns to talk. The sound being thus formed in the lower vocal cords, all the parts above serve only to increase or lower, or in a word, to modify, the voice. This is the reason that it requires long practice to make an orator: of the truth of this remark, Cicero and Demosthenes are examples. It must be supposed, therefore, that "Apollos," practised much, before he became what Luke calls him, "an eloquent man." With the beauty, power, and excellence of the human voice, nothing can bear comparison. It is the sweetest music that the ear can hear. It is the glory of man. It is, also, his bane; without it, the gospel cannot be preached. It is characterized in Scripture under the term, the *tongue*. "It is a fire, a world of iniquity among our members. Therewith bless we God, even the Father, and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God." It is more untamable than beasts, birds, or serpents.

From the delicacy and intricacy of the vocal organs, we should naturally infer the vast importance of their function. Signs may express thoughts, wishes, emotions. A savage, beholding the golden apple, might make a gesture indicating that he wanted it; a dog has been known to make a sign that he wished for human aid to relieve his master in distress. But how insignificant are these pantomimic representations to human speech! No device for expressing thought or volition, but dwindles into insignificance before the human voice. A single vocal utterance awakens thoughts in hundreds of bosoms. "Words, fitly spoken, are like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Like all other parts of the animal economy, this vocal apparatus is liable to disease; and in no class of men does this occur more frequently than among clergymen. So often, indeed, has it prevailed within a few years, that it has been technically called "*the clergyman's disease*."

Aphonia, or loss of voice, may arise from several causes. It may be caused by a cold; by thickening of the mucous membrane of the larynx; or by injury to the vocal cords—by their becoming permanently enlarged, relaxed, or inflamed; or by the nerves becoming diseased, or paralyzed, which run to the muscles which move these cords. Or we may have *aphonia* from extreme debility, as is sometimes the case in the last stage of consumption; or from ossification of the cartilage

of the larynx. *Hoarseness* is often caused by an enlargement of the vocal cords; the cords becoming like the strings of a bass viol which has laid out all night in the dew, or become soaked with water. Not unfrequently a roughness of the voice is caused by a chronic inflammation of the membrane which lines the larynx and trachea. This inflammation is sometimes coming on for years. Every sermon preached tends to augment it. When, it is taking place, the throat feels raw, or, as elsewhere described, as though it were *scraped*. I have known a patient in such case, make an almost constant effort to *swallow* for an hour, especially after preaching.

This kind of sore throat commences usually in the *fauces* or *pharynx*, above the root of the tongue, and extends downwards to the larynx; and, eventually, unless checked by proper remedies, to the lungs. On examining the *velum*, or soft palate, as seen in the mouth, it is found to be of a deep red, interspersed with light, or ash-colored spots. The membrane is inflamed, and these spots are caused by a concretion of albumen upon the palate and surrounding parts. As the disease progresses, these spots coalesce, and finally coat the whole secreting membrane. Small sloughs take place, and beneath, the membrane is of a deep red color, deprived of its epithelium, or inner lining. It is only in severe cases, that this inflammation extends into the larynx, and down the windpipe, running into what was formerly called *tracheal* consumption. The disease is usually slow in its progress; but, sometimes, there is an acute inflammation of the epiglottis, or valve covering the larynx, and the lining of the larynx itself, and of the air-tube, and an adhesive substance poured out in such abundance, as to prevent the entrance of air into the lungs, and thus cause death, as by suffocation, or loss of breath. It was from this form of this acute disease, that General Washington, the Father of his Country, died; though, undoubtedly, the medical treatment he received hastened on the disease to a fatal termination.

In the commencement of this disease, there is simply an enlargement, irritation, or slight inflammation of the *follicles*, or glands of the pharynx and larynx. These glands are very numerous in the membrane which lines the upper parts of these passages. The increase and extension of the disease are in the glands of the tube running to the lungs, becoming diseased in a similar manner. The access of this disease is so insidious, that it may have

continued months, or years even, without manifesting any other symptoms, than a desire to *hawk* up, or to *swallow* something which seems to lie at the top of the larynx, with a slight roughness, or occasional huskiness of the voice, and an unnatural relaxation, or enlargement of all the parts of the throat.

The causes conspiring to induce this disease are various; but, in a word, may be said to be anything which depresses the vital powers; such as too close application to study, anxiety, over-exertion, exposure to cold, fear of not succeeding, disappointed ambition, a torpid condition of the liver, &c. The immediate exciting cause is often too much and too loud speaking. Frequently this disease is induced by singing. In most instances, it is accompanied by an extremely nervous state of the whole system. Every nerve in the body seems to be on the stretch. In many cases, it is accompanied by indigestion; and, in some, it is excited by acid eructations from the stomach, which excoriate and roughen the throat at the top of the oesophagus, or meat pipe. Rarely have I ever seen a case where the tone of the whole system was not *below* the usual standard of health.

In the *treatment*, the first requisite is rest, absolute rest from public speaking, and, as far as can be, from using the vocal organs at all, together with this, there should be relaxation from care. In a word, both mind and body should be quiet. But as *prevention* is better than *cure*, let all strive to ward off this disease.

Some remedies must be addressed directly to the diseased organs. Within a few years past, means have been devised for entering the box of the larynx, and of applying to its surface, and to the whole of the trachea, reaching even into the bronchial tubes, and some say into the lungs, certain chemical salts, held in solution in water; which check this irritation and inflammation, and induce the mucous membrane to take on a healing action. The principal, and the first one chiefly employed, was the nitrate of silver, in the strength of from ten to eighty grains to the ounce of water. Other remedial agents have sometimes been used, and I have sometimes employed the nitrate of silver, in the form of an impalpable powder by inhalation. In either of these ways, this agent often produces a salutary effect upon this disease. But, as an abuse of the *nitrate* has sometimes given the skin a permanent dark tinge, the oxide of silver has by many been substituted for the nitrate.

But the local application alone rarely effects a permanent cure, as the disease is generally accompanied with indigestion, or a torpid condition of the liver. Hence, if none but local applications are made, the disease will be but half treated, and the apparent cure will not prove real and permanent.

If public speakers wish to avoid the disease in question, it will be important for them to attend, among others, to the following particulars: They must not study too hard, nor at improper times. They must be moderate in the amount and loudness of their voice. Often, much more effort is made in speaking than is necessary to be audible. Many of the best and most effective speakers have put forth but little physical power, and spoken uniformly in a moderate tone. Such clergymen practise as though they believed the declaration of holy writ, "*bodily* exercise profiteth little." The ignorant alone consider that the *louder* the preaching is, the better it is; while the wise and considerate know that *empty* things make the most sound. It is much easier for the vocal organs to speak without, than with notes. I would have every minister preach, ordinarily, without writing his sermons. I would have him study his sermon as long as it would take him to write it, and then, make his brief, and go into the pulpit, and preach from it. It will fatigue him much less, and he will have the accompanying influence of the eye, which is much more valuable than is generally imagined, and his audience will be better pleased and better edified. This is the way many eminent preachers have done, and the way every one can do, who can preach in any way to acceptance. In the opinion of the writer, a chief reason why the lawyer can do twice as much speaking as the clergyman, without injury to his vocal organs, is, the former speaks *without*, and the latter *with*, a written discourse. It is important, also, that clergymen relieve themselves from all undue anxiety, and it would not be injurious, but beneficial, if he should, occasionally, be found, like the great "Apostle of the Gentiles," laboring at "tent-making," or some other manual labor. It is a relic of the "dark ages," that clergymen should never know anything, nor do anything, but study and make sermons. So thought not Paul; so practised not our great Exemplar. Neither the celibacy of the clergy, nor their monkish austerity, nor their ignorance of every-day affairs, and the common duties of life, ever contributed to their happiness or usefulness.

It has almost passed into a proverb, that clergymen know nothing about business matters. Witness the following: A clergyman once inquired at a "Savings Institution" what per cent. they paid for money. Upon learning that the per cent. was small, he so remarked. "O," said the bank-man, "we don't take large sums, and a large part of it comes from *old maids* and *clergymen*, of the class who don't know how to manage for themselves."

REDUCTION OF HERNIAL TUMORS BY THE COLD DOUCHE.

To the Editors of the Medical World:—
On reading a description of Baron Sentin's method of reducing strangulated hernia, in the third number of your journal, I was induced to suggest the method which I have successfully practised for many years, where moderate and continued taxis has proved ineffectual.

As I do not recollect having seen any suggestions of this manner of treatment in any treatise on the subject, perhaps it may be novel to some of your readers.

In strangulated hernia, I have always found much relief from pain and inflammatory tendency, by specific, internal treatment; but when the attempt to reduce the hernial tumor by taxis is unsuccessful, I resort to a *cold douche*, sometimes continued, interruptedly, for fifteen, twenty, or thirty minutes. Often the tumor will entirely recede while under the influence of the stream of water.

Last summer I was called to a young man who had suffered great pain and inconvenience for several days, from a protruded inguinal hernia. His physician had made several unsuccessful attempts at reduction. When I first saw him, (in the evening,) he was suffering severe pain, the tumor measuring three inches in diameter, and exceedingly sensitive to the touch. I applied a moderate douche and manipulation, but did not succeed in reducing it. Internal treatment and constant cold embrocations were continued through the night.

Next morning I found the patient had suffered almost incessant bilious vomiting through the night, with an increase of the size and sensitiveness of the tumor. I then applied the douche, with refrigerated water, in an interrupted stream, letting it fall some five or six feet directly upon the tumor and inguinal

ring. After six or seven pailfuls of water had been thus applied with very slight taxis, the tumor, which had considerably diminished in size under the application, was entirely reduced; when immediate mitigation of all unpleasant symptoms followed, and in a few days he recovered his usual health.

My manner of applying the douche, in the dearth of better accommodation, has been to take a large tub and place the patient over it in a recumbent position, with the thighs flexed upon the pelvis. Then make a cylinder by rolling a piece of canvas, or take the skeleton of a bucket or keg, with the heads out, and place it over the pelvis to prevent the water from spattering. The water may be allowed to fall in a stream from a pitcher or other convenient vessel, through this cylinder, a distance of three, four, five, or six feet, according to the ability of the patient to bear the application.

After continuing the douche for ten or fifteen minutes, moderate manipulation should be resorted to, and, if not successful, continue the douche with water at a reduced temperature.

After the hernia is reduced, the patient should be sufficiently covered in bed to allow reaction in the circulation. After which, suitable means should be used to retain the hernial protrusion in its proper place.

SAMUEL GREGG.

Boston, Jan., 1857.

[Communicated for the Medical World.]

HIGH CHARGES.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—No wonder that ophthalmic practice is on the move towards New York. There is reason in all things. People cannot afford to consult an oculist when his charges are entirely disproportioned to the incomes of those who consult him. Why should not other surgical charges be as high? What is there so mysterious about the surgery of the eye that warrants a tariff of prices which Cræsus only could afford to pay?

One hundred dollars is very rarely demanded by the first surgeons of this country, for the safe performance of a great operation. Now contrast this with the actual cost of having an eye examined. There certainly is an immense difference. Patients either complain unreasonably, or the oculists of New York would not draw off so much practice from this immediate region of country. Your obedient servant,

W. L. R.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

THE LAWS OF HEALTH.

Who shall decide when doctors disagree? is a trite question. There have been as many commentators on the laws of Nature within a century, as philosophers have been able to read patiently; and yet so unsatisfactorily was the labor performed, that new analyses are undertaken, and with brilliant prospects of commendation from those who are supposed to know what Nature originally intended when those laws were established.

It will be admitted that stability is a prominent characteristic of Nature. No alterations have been made in the mechanical structure of animals, from the primeval plan first adopted; and the laws originally promulgated remain without modification, as they were recorded in the great book of Nature, when, after mature examination, all that had passed the Omniscient scrutiny, was pronounced to be good.

Man changes his opinions, and frames ordinances to meet particular conditions of society, but Nature legislated in the beginning for all coming time. And because she is permanent, and forever the same in respect to the processes by which animal life is sustained, medical expounders have variously explained the way and manner in which humanity violates those natural laws, and thus brings the severe penalties that embitter the days of those who are within the grasp of disease, under whatever Protean form it may seize them. A physician is the last writer on this fruitful topic, and his philosophical deliberations will become the subject of attention at the first convenient moment.

A SURGICAL INAUGURAL. — Professors are numerous, to equip and organize almost half a hundred medical schools in the United States. It would be an arduous undertaking to comment upon all the introductory lectures of a season, or to republish a tithe of the excellent sentiments by which they are generally characterized. Every American physician and surgeon is justified in being proud of the immense array of professional ability now in the field, carrying onward and upward, for the advancement of society, the discoveries and improvements of the age. But this subject cannot be enlarged upon in this connection,

because we sat down expressly to write a paragraph about the inaugural address of Dr. Samuel D. Gross, which is a felicitous production, and must have been well received by a large audience, or a committee representing seven States, besides the District of Columbia, Nova Scotia, Canada, Cuba, Corsica, Prussia, the West Indies, and South America, would never have honored the author by requesting a copy for publication.

It rarely happens that a great surgical operator is also a clever writer. In Dr. Gross both of these qualifications are combined. His books are scattered over the world, in all libraries abounding in chirurgical authorities; and who has not heard of his skill with instruments, who has been at the South West?

The discourse which pleased those who had the pleasure of listening to it, is principally historical. It is a summary account of the early beginning and prosperous maturity of Jefferson Medical College, with such biographical notices of those who have been identified with the professorships in the institution as the limits of the discourse would allow.

No apologies from Dr. Gross were necessary, for being where he stood. His reputation as a successful teacher gave him the position. He left an eminence "in the land of Boone, of Clay and Crittenden," to take a higher one.

"How vast, how striking, the difference between the two periods here spoken of! How vast the difference between the Jefferson Medical College of 1828, and the Jefferson Medical College of 1856! Then the school was in a state of infancy, poor, helpless, without friends, without antecedents, and without any definite future. The first course of lectures was opened on Prune Street, in an old building, then known as the Tivoli Theatre, and now occupied as a manufactory of mineral water, in November, 1825, under the auspices of George M'Clellan, John Eberle, Jacob Green, B. Rush Rhees, F. S. Beattie and N. R. Smith, the present distinguished Professor of Surgery in the University of Maryland. On the 14th of April following, the school held its first commencement in the Masonic Hall of this city, when the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon twenty young men, representing Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, South Carolina, and Ireland. In 1830, it seems to have entered upon a new career, pregnant with brilliant results. It was then in the sixth year of its existence, and the approaching session, to use the language of its circular, was to be

opened under the most favorable auspices, every obstacle to the future advancement of the Institution having been removed. Several changes had already taken place in the Faculty. Dr. Beattie and Dr. Barnes having successively retired from the chair of Obstetrics, Dr. Eberle was now transferred to it, the professorship of medicine which he had previously filled having been assigned to Dr. Drake, of Cincinnati. The latter gentleman, who afterwards occupied so large a space in the public eye, and whose death the profession has so recently deplored, was regarded as a great acquisition to the college, on account of his reputation as a lecturer, and his practical acquaintance with the diseases of the South-West, where a majority of the alumni of the school were expected to locate themselves. Such, undoubtedly, would have been the case, if Dr. Drake had remained in Philadelphia; but at the close of the session he severed his connection with his associates, and returned to Ohio, carrying with him Dr. Eberle, one of the ablest, most popular, and most influential members of the Faculty. Thus the school sustained a double, and, for a while, an irreparable loss. In 1836, we find the Faculty consisting of the two M'Clellans, — George and Samuel, — Granville Sharpe Pattison, John Revere, Jacob Green, Samuel Colhoun, and Robley Dunglison, "formerly Professor of Physiology in the University of Virginia, and late Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Maryland." From the catalogue from which these facts are taken it appears that the number of students in 1832 and '33, — the year after the retirement of Drake and Eberle, — was only 96, from which it rose to 364 in 1835 and '36, with a graduating class of 134.

"As an alumnus of this College, it is melancholy to find that not one of the teachers under whom I served my pupilage, and who subscribed my diploma, survives. They have all fallen by the wayside, most of them in the prime and vigor of life, and in the midst of their usefulness. Their memory alone remains, as a legacy to its many graduates, and as an honor to the profession which they adorned by their labors and their fame. Dr. George M'Clellan, who was emphatically the founder of the College, and whose private teaching I had the honor to enjoy for nearly two years, has left his mark upon his age and country as one of our most illustrious surgeons; and his worthy coadjutor, Dr. John Eberle, established an enviable reputation as one of our most able scholars and distinguished authors, whose

works were long used as text-books in most of our schools. Dr. Benjamin Rush Rhees fell a victim to pulmonary consumption soon after I became a graduate; Dr. Green continued to teach chemistry up to the time of his death in 1841; and Dr. William P. C. Barton, after having been for several years chief of the Medical Bureau at Washington, died only last spring at the age of seventy. What is remarkable, the only one of the faces then familiar to me, and which now meets my eye, is that of Mr. Janitor Watson, who has stood, like a faithful sentinel, at the doors of the College, from its first opening to the present moment, a period of upwards of thirty years."

It would be personally gratifying to ourselves to continue these extracts, but it would lead to the exclusion of other articles which are entitled to a place. The whole lecture is good. There is something on every page to interest the reader. Dr. Gross is not a morose, cheerless, forbidding man in his deportment. He has a kind heart, warm affections and sympathies, — the very foundation elements of success in Philadelphia. If Louisville was a great theatre for the exercise of his surgical skill, Philadelphia will be vastly larger. If his life is spared a few years, he will be the operator and professor of this country.

ESSAYS.

Several small books, but not the less valuable on account of their size, ranging between thick pamphlets and thin volumes, have been flowing in upon us so fast that it is quite possible some of them may have been overlooked. However, the authors and those to whom we are indebted for them, must not conclude that their favors are undervalued because there is apparent tardiness in acknowledging their reception. One of this description of books is entitled, *Theory of Nutrition and the Philosophy of Healing without Medicine*. This goes quite beyond the Homœopathists. A principal complaint against those gentlemen, is that they don't prescribe medicine enough. Here forsooth is a new comer who uses none at all! Next, a semi-book on *Psychology, historical, philosophical, and practical*, which may contain much in a little space worth knowing.

Among the accumulations is a *Refutation of the many falsehoods uttered and published respecting the poisonous and deleterious properties of Lobelia*. Here is a champion. We should rather review the essay than to take

lobelia. However, in good time we expect to read what the author says.

Yellow Fever under Homœopathic Treatment, by Wm. H. Halcombe, M. D., of Waterproof, La., is an elaborate work, abounding in valuable suggestions and curious reminiscences of that terrible disease. The historical introductory part, to the 13th page, is extremely interesting.

In short, we can do no more at present, than to assure those from whom this class of publications came, and are constantly coming, that it would be difficult to chronicle the progress of American medical literature, without a sample of each and everything emanating from the press. Were the Journal three times its present dimensions it would not exhaust the influx of matter.

FLOATING FACTS.

[Presuming these weekly columns of Floating Facts may be useful to those collecting materials for publications at a future period on physiological subjects,—medicine, surgery, chemistry, midwifery, and other branches of knowledge which belong to a course of professional reading,—we have adopted this plan of furnishing important matter in the fewest words.

In preparing lectures, writing communications for journals, either literary or scientific, an immense amount of matter for strengthening an argument, illustrating propositions, and giving an interest to a variety of topics within the legitimate range of medical studies, may be found in these paragraphs. They are useful for reference, and are certainly more or less instructive, independent of the pleasure derived from the facts they present. We therefore propose to continue this particular feature of *THE MEDICAL WORLD*, till a majority of its patrons request an alteration.]

Effect of Color upon Health.—A writer in the *London Builder*, thus narrates the results of his observation on the effects of the color of the walls of a room on the spirits of the occupants. From several years' observation in rooms of various sizes, used as manufacturing rooms, and occupied by females for twelve hours per day, I found that the workers who occupied those rooms which had large windows with large panes of glass in the four sides of the room, so that the sun's rays penetrated through the room during the whole day, were much more healthy than the workers who occupied rooms lighted from one side only, or rooms lighted through very small panes of glass. I observed another very singular fact viz.: that the workers who occupied one room were very cheerful and healthy, while the occupiers of another similar room, who were

employed on the same kind of work, were all inclined to melancholy, and complained of pain in the forehead and eyes, and were often ill and unable to work. Upon examining the rooms in question, I found they were both equally well ventilated and lighted. I could not find anything about the drainage of the premises that could affect one room more than the other; but I observed that the room occupied by the cheerful workers was wholly white-washed, and the room occupied by the melancholy workers was colored with *yellow ochre*. I had the yellow ochre washed off, and the walls and ceilings whitewashed. The workers ever after felt more cheerful and healthy. After making this discovery, I extended my observations to a number of smaller rooms and garrets, and found, without exception, that the occupants of the white rooms were much more healthy than the occupants of the yellow or buff colored rooms; and wherever I succeeded in inducing the occupants of the yellow rooms to change the color for whitewash, I always found a corresponding improvement in the health and spirits of the occupants.

Do ladies and gentlemen habitually dressed in black garments acquire a gloomy expression and a solemn manner? Neither crows, rooks nor blackbirds sing in merry mood.

African Notions of Insanity.—A deranged man is thought to be deserted of his soul. Living persons often send messages to the spirits of the deceased by those who are dying. But the immediate cause of insanity is charged to the potency of witches. Sickness, poverty, insanity, and almost every evil incident to human life, are ascribed to its agency. Death, no matter by what means, or under what circumstances it takes place, is spontaneously and almost universally ascribed to this cause. If a man falls from a precipice and is dashed to pieces, or if he accidentally blows out his own brains with a musket, it is, nevertheless, inferred that he must have been under some supernatural influence, or no such calamity could have occurred.

More than a Century Old.—Mrs. Hanna died in New York, week before last, at the great age of 112 years. She was born in Ireland.

Hydrophobia in Egypt.—In Cyprus and Egypt, hydrophobia has never been known to occur.

Rheumatism in London.—A short time ago the complaint was very prevalent, both among the young and old, in every part of London. Hundreds of specifics have been resorted to by different individuals to conquer this prostrating and tedious disease, without any beneficial effect. Artisans, laborers who earn their daily bread by manual operations, are badly affected, when they are visited by rheumatic ailments, which render them quite helpless. A correspondent can personally testify to the efficacy, and from his own experience, in the liberal use of lime (lemon) juice, while laboring under the paroxysm of rheumatism. By repeated indulgence in the simple acid, for the space of three days, avoiding all stimulating liquids, the most confirmed rheumatism will relax, and the tone of the muscular and nervous system be restored to its usual character. This fact was first established by the circumstance of the Jews being scarcely ever affected with this disease; and this particular exemption from the malady under consideration, as affecting the disciples of the Hebrew persuasion, has been attributed to the very free indulgence in the dietary consumption of lemon juice.

Camphor counteracting Strychnine.—Has any one verified this statement made in the following article which is floating over the globe? If so, it should be communicated to the profession forthwith. It purports to have originated with Dr Tewksbury of Portland, Me. Having been absent when it first appeared, curiosity prompts us to ask for more light on the subject. It appears that a boy was seized with convulsions, and it was ascertained that he had just eaten a biscuit, picked up at the door of an eating house, that was made for the purpose of killing rats, and contained about one and a half grains of strychnine. The boy's spasms were so severe that immediate death seems inevitable, though all the usual remedies were resorted to. Camphor could not be introduced into the stomach on account of the continued lockjaw. Accordingly strong injections of camphor were used, and the body immersed in a hot camphor bath, and in a few hours the boy was comparatively well.

Spider Spinning.—Spiders have four paps for spinning their threads, each pap having 1000 holes; and the fine web itself is the union of 4,000 threads. No spider spins more than four webs, and when the fourth has been destroyed, they suspend labor for a while, probably for the secretion of material for thread.

A Large Family.—Mr. Thomas Norsworthy, of Salem, who died last week at the age of ninety-eight years, was married six times, and had thirty-three children. The old man sawed wood for a living until he was more than seventy-five years of age. He was born in Devonshire County, England. He came to this country in 1816, previously to which he had served twenty years in the British army, under Lord Wellington and other officers, in India, Russia, Prussia, Spain, and the West Indies, and for eleven years he was in the British navy, under Admiral Dockworth and other officers. He was engaged in sixty-five battles during those thirty-one years, and escaped without the loss of a limb.

Achmet Pasha, who died in Lower Egypt in 1849, told the British Consul that he lost thirty children with infantile diseases in one season. At his death he left one hundred and thirty-seven living children. When the British Ambassador was received at Court by the late Shah of Persia, His Majesty was surrounded by a body guard of one hundred of his own sons, splendid-looking men, who were mounted on magnificent horses.

A recent traveller from Utah says that he saw a gentleman of the city going to church with six wives and twenty-seven of his children!

Punishment with Pepper in Africa.—One of the most common and terrible kind of punishments inflicted upon disobedient boys is to rub red pepper into their eyes. Their screams and yells under the operation are savage beyond description, and it is a wonder that their sight is not entirely destroyed. I have never known, however, a case where any permanent injury was inflicted in this way. Adult offenders are sometimes subjected to a still severer punishment. They are made fast in the roof of a house, and thoroughly smoked with pepper.

Moral Insanity.—A man by the name of Hayt, murdered a young girl of fourteen, at Erie, Pa., but was sent to the Penitentiary for ten years, because medical men testified that he was laboring under moral insanity.

Near-sightedness in France.—In nineteen years, 3,205,202 young men were examined in France for military service, and 13,007 exempted on account of defective vision—principally near-sightedness.

More than a Century Old.—Mr. Peter Rozelli, of Oswego, N. Y., is 103 years of age.

Chemistry applied to the Arts.—It is passing strange that more young men do not enter themselves at the schools of science at Cambridge College, Mass., Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, and several other places open to receive them. The demand for their services at manufacturing establishments is not only urgent, but it will be more so with the growth and development of the country. High salaries are paid by corporations for chemical qualifications. In mixing colors, preparing mordants, &c., chemical knowledge must be had at any price. In the city of Lawrence, in Massachusetts, one mill, the Pacific, expends enormous sums for material, besides paying their chemical manipulators. The chemicals and dyestuffs reach the value of over \$1000 daily, and comprise an annual consumption of 800,000 pounds madder, and 40,000 pounds of cochineal; and there are employed besides, 550,000 pounds of starch, 4000 gallons of sperm oil, 2000 pounds glue, 450 barrels flour, and numerous other articles.

Poisoning of a Professor.—A curious event lately occurred in the University of Leipsic. Dr. Recalm, professor of legal medicine, was lecturing on nicotine; and, to show the deadly effects of the poison, he administered a large dose of it to a big dog. The animal, which was lying on its back, was immediately seized with convulsions, and ejected a considerable portion of the poison with great violence in the professor's face, and some of it entered his mouth. He was at once taken with all the violent symptoms of poisoning, and had not remedies been properly administered he would have fallen a victim of forcible poisoning by a dog in self-defence.

Small-Pox in Ireland.—Small-pox is raging in Kilaloe, and in the neighboring townlands many children have died from its effects, and a great number are now lying in a fearful state, young and old. Over 200 children had been vaccinated during the present week for cow-pox, the greater part having had it before. It is considered there that it should be repeated every five years, or else it would be no preventive against natural pox; so say the faculty.

Fatal Practice.—A young lady, named Narcissa Burnham, was found dead in bed on the evening of the 18th ult., in Austin, Texas. She was residing with Col. Sublett's family, and had been in the habit of using chloroform to put herself to sleep.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Before the New York Academy of Medicine, Dr Barton is represented to have said, in substance, that the municipal authorities of New Orleans were responsible for the yellow fever in that city, so often nearly desolated by its terrific waste of human life.

Dr. James Hall, of Baltimore, who is greatly interested in the African Colonization Society, is about sailing for Liberia.

A pamphlet on the subject of foreign bodies in the knee-joint, by A. B. Crosby, M. D., of Hanover, N. H., may be consulted with profit. If the author has the advantage of Dr. Dixi Crosby's counsel, who resides in the same place, he cannot be otherwise than an expert surgeon.

Quite a strong representation of American physicians are passing the winter in Paris. Every thing medical from the U. S. passes through London, for France. There is more liberality, even in that despotic government, towards men of science and for those in pursuit of knowledge, than in Merry England. There are no tuition bills to pay for lectures on any subject in Paris.

Dr. Francis T. Stribling, medical Superintendent of the Western Virginia Asylum for the Insane, who resigned a while since, has been induced to withdraw the letter of resignation. He will therefore probably continue his official connection with the institution, which is located at Stanton.

Dr. H. W. Holmes, Dr. I. C. Morfit and W. H. Brune, of California, have arrived at Paris, on their travels.

A child nine days old died of hæmorrhage after being circumcised, in New York. Two medical gentlemen testified to the proper performance of the operation. It is not likely any attempt will be made to prevent the ordinance in future on account of its cruelty, because the whole force of Jewish history would prove its harmlessness, and, possibly, utility.

General Walker's soldiers have died in Grenada at a fearful rate—and some stress is laid on the fact that they had no salt for their fresh beef rations. But there are scores of new light vegetarians, who contend that salt never should be used at all with food. One party impute many diseases to its destructive agency, and the other declares that death ensues speedily without it. So in this, as in many other questions, there are two sides.

A writer in the London News says, at the

Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, the medical professors are in the habit of giving lectures to females, on midwifery.

Well grounded fears in regard to the restoration to health of the great Arctic explorer, Dr. Kane, are entertained. He has arrived in a genial climate in the West Indies, from England.

What are the prospects for creating a benevolent fund for unfortunate physicians and their families? It is a reproach to the profession of Boston, that efficient measures have not been taken to accomplish an object so desirably humane.

The general health of the people was never more satisfactory. There are a large number of consumptive sufferers, as there always will be in the fitful climate of the Northern States. Medical practitioners are not particularly driven with business.

A religious paper in Boston has a long article on mental disease, and intimates that more may be expected. It would be just as appropriate to insert communications on religious subjects in the Medical Journals.

Report says that the Aldermen of the City of Roxbury refused to allow dispensary accommodations, designed for the poor, to be located in the almshouse.

An invention of a new and more portable kind of surgical pocket case is spoken of at the West, which is a notable improvement over the thick, heavy collection of apparatus, medical gentleman are accustomed to carry about with them in practice.

A large number of invalids from the North, are wending their way to Havana, to avoid the dreaded severity of winter and an inclement spring.

Dr. Lugenbeel, secretary of the American Colonization Society, is not a colored man, as very many suppose; on the contrary, very few white men look better. He has been in Africa, but the climate did not change his complexion.

Very many young medical gentlemen, in pursuit of places to establish themselves, appear astonished that no openings can be found for the exercise of their profession.

An ukase is said to have been issued by the new Emperor of Russia, against quackery. It is easier to subvert Turkey, than to suppress moral evils — and that is one of them, because the people will indulge in the luxury of killing themselves with nostrums.

Dr. J. Coghlan has been elected Mayor of Wexford, Ireland, and Dr. Kane, Mayor of Limerick.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, JANUARY 7, 1857.

MEDICAL PAMPHLETS. — They accumulate rapidly; but it so happens that most of them are duplicates of articles which have appeared in some of the many journals, and it would not be courteous, therefore, towards those periodicals where extra sheets are worked for a pamphlet, to reproduce them again. Many of these modest productions contain important matter for practitioners of medicine and surgery. It is very natural to desire a knowledge of the way and manner a difficult case was brought to a favorable termination. Instead of particularizing these minor publications individually, they are regarded as references, systematically arranged, which may often prove even more serviceable than voluminous treatises. They are like hand-books to a traveller — by which he obtains the largest amount of information in a direct manner.

Controversial pamphlets are not common, as they once were. It is a famous method of conducting literary and scientific warfare abroad. But on this side of the Atlantic there are not persons completely at leisure, as in Europe, to analyze deliberately, as though the stability of society depended upon them in regard to pamphleteer controversies.

A large proportion of this class of professional issues are simply an adjustment of the type used in a journal, in a different sized page; or the original dimensions are preserved, and modified by repaging. Two points are gained by this plan. First, it is a good idea, and secondly, the author can compliment a friend with a specimen of his labor, without having it accompanied by that which might be considered extraneous matter. Then, again, a well-digested medical pamphlet has a higher claim for preservation. Some excellent volumes may be seen in medical libraries in Boston, constructed entirely of pamphlets, properly lettered on the back, and an index to what is within. All the public institutions value medical pamphlets very highly; and when presented to them, they are systematically displayed upon the shelves.

SMALL POX. — In consequence of the criminal neglect of the people in the country, to vaccinate, the small-pox is always lurking upon their borders. It is now painfully active at several points at the North, and bids fair to extend, unless active measures are adopted for limiting its progress. Nearly all those who annually fall victims to the disease in New York, Boston and other cities, come from their country homes, unprotected; and forgetting to consult a physician on taking up a residence in town, they fall like autumn leaves on the first exposure to a pestilence that rarely leaves the large commercial places. There would be no danger if all were properly vaccinated.

LIFE INSURANCE.—An active business was transacted for several successive years in all the principal cities and towns in this country, in granting life policies. Runners, after the fashion of steamboat agents, popped their heads into every place large enough to admit them, full of eloquent advice—making plain, how, if the insurer happened to die, it would be a capital investment for surviving friend. Such low manœuvring, together with the impositions practised by irresponsible offices, has wonderfully cooled the ardor of thousands who paid their yearly instalments, till, on calculation, they found the same money securely invested would have been worth something to themselves while living, and more to their families than they would have realized on the policy, if the insured had died. Immense sums have thus been lost to those who were in no condition to part with their earnings, while the insurance companies have pocketed the income—much to the gratification of somebody.

Life insurance is as important as it ever was; but the person to be insured must seek a responsible office. Those are represented not to be numerous.

The character of an office may be inferred from the character and standing of the medical examiner. If he is a mere fancy man, giving half the legal fee to an agent, who increases his own profits by giving the inexperienced medical aspirant a moiety, it is a sickly institution.

MEDICAL ABUSES.—A gentleman who imagines himself a distinguished philanthropist, thinks some simultaneous effort should be commenced for correcting medical abuses, which are becoming so barefaced that he who runs may read them, not only in family papers, but on post office envelopes, bottle covers, and on half the fences in the high way.

He would have a law promulgated for regulating the practice of physic, to prevent any one from prescribing for the sick, who did not pay a license of one thousand dollars. That would give character to its possessor, and insure pecuniary patronage worth having.

Next, he would have one medical man of acknowledged professional ability appointed to grant licenses, according to his judgment, in regard to the qualifications of applicants. And in the third place, he knows of no person better fitted by nature and education to discharge that important function than himself, provided a moderate salary were attached to the office of about six thousand dollars a year!

Of all abuses recognized as belonging to the domain of medicine, his proposition, were it possible to bring it about, would be the greatest.

"In the depths of the heart hypocrisy dwells,
But others see us, though we can't see ourselves."

OCULISTS.—Institutions for the treatment of diseases of the eye are established very extensively throughout the northern and western States. A na-

tural consequence of concentrating patients for the diseases of the visual organs, was to make expert oculists. It is not assuming too much to assert, that many of the most successful operators in the world are to be found in the American cities. No speciality is presumed to be more remunerative. It should be so. The preparations necessary for being a skillful oculist advance an individual into middle life; and before the public trust to his judgment or his instruments, white hairs are indicative of having passed the meridian.

CLOSING A HOSPITAL.—A novel circumstance has recently occurred in Boston. The Lying-In Hospital, located in the southern section of the city,—a very spacious and admirably contrived edifice, with its charming open area of ground, has actually been closed—not for wants of patients, but funds.

Many years ago the institution was commenced under favorable auspices, with a good estate in Washington street. Like those we read of who took down their small barns to build larger ones, by some singular *hocus pocus*, characteristic of modern financiering tact, there have been reared fine, imposing accommodations, but it appears nothing is left to support the charity. A question therefore arises in this form—what next?

Either the citizens must immediately raise a sum by liberal subscriptions, the interest of which, annually and forever, will meet the current expenses, or the establishment must necessarily pass into other hands. Economy demands a speedy sale of the premises, before the furniture and fixtures deteriorate, if funds cannot be collected forthwith. Queer management this! Of course no one is to blame, because a corporation is without a soul. Some individuals are in the same anomalous state. Neither men nor institutions, however, can exist long, in these selfish times, without means.

SURGEONS ATTACHED TO RAILROADS.—Why would it not be an acceptable measure for all the long lines of road to have a surgeon attached? Accidents are occurring frequently, and in thinly settled parts of the country, it sometimes so happens that medical assistance cannot be obtained readily, and life is actually sacrificed, which might have been prolonged or saved by timely surgical attention. An objection to adopting the plan could be raised in this way,—if it could be determined where a crash would take place a stationary operator, at the expense of the corporation, should be employed. Upon an average, it is presumed that railroad companies pay more in emergencies for surgical assistance, than it would cost to keep a travelling surgeon to each long train, going and coming over each line of travel between the large cities.

THE WARM BATH.—Without knowing where the following philosophical sentiments originated, being pertinent, they are copied without apology. Those who are influenced by the reasonings embraced in these three paragraphs, will be permanently benefited by acting accordingly.

Many erroneous notions prevail respecting the uses and properties of the warm bath. To many persons, the idea of submersion in warm water, on a summer day, would be preposterous; but if it be rationally considered, it will be found that the warm bath may be taken with equal, or perhaps greater benefit, in summer than in winter.

During hot weather, the secretions in the skin are much increased in quantity, and consequently, a greater necessity exists that it should be kept perfectly free from obstructions. Another prevailing error respecting the warm bath is, that it tends to relax and enervate the body; but experience has sufficiently proved the fallacy of the opinion, and many physicians have prescribed its use to patients laboring under debility from disease, none of whom experienced such effects, but have all felt invigorated, and mostly restored to health and strength.

Many persons are deterred from using the warm bath, especially in winter, from the fear of catching cold; but this fear is groundless, for it has been found that the warm bath, by increasing the circulation on the surface of the body, renders it more capable of withstanding the effects of cold than it otherwise would have been.

SUNLIGHT IN HOUSES.—Careful observation establishes the fact that if the sunlight penetrates all or nearly all the rooms of a dwelling, the inmates are less liable to sickness, than in a house where the apartments lose its health-invigorating influences. Basement rooms are the nurseries of indisposition. It is a gross mistake to compel human beings to reside partially under ground. There is a defective condition of the air in basement stories, invariably, connected with dampness, besides the decomposing paint on the walls, and the escape of noxious gases from pipes and drains. It is strange that builders persist in doing this violence to humanity, by still erecting houses, in cities, with basements.

MARRIAGES.

Dr. J. M., Browne, U. S. Navy, to Miss A. K. Turner.
Joseph Heritage, M. D., Philadelphia, to Miss A. E. Dick.

George H. Cook, M. D., Philadelphia, to Miss J. A. Wilder.

H. St. C. Ash, M. D., of Philadelphia, to Miss M. L. Cousty.

Z. R. Jones, M. D., to Miss A. Wallace.

I. Jump, M. D., of Delaware, to Miss S. V. Alling.

Benj. Barry, M. D., Wellsboro, Pa., to Miss C. V. Carson.

DEATHS.

At Hanover, N. H., Mrs. Abigail, widow of Dr. Asa Crosby, 82.

At Covington, Ky, of typhoid fever, Mr. Lorenzo Coffey, a medical student.

At New Orleans, by suicide, Dr. E. B. Harris. The circumstances were as follows. He intended to assassinate Mr. Roselius, by entering his office and attempting to stab him with a dirk. Mr. Roselius saw him, however, in time to catch his arm. Dr. Harris was immediately arrested, and subsequently admitted to bail in \$1500. Dr. Harris, after being released, went home, and took two doses of strychnine, and in a few moments was a corpse.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 27.

Hannah E. Wahlan 1 day, Wm. A. Cochrane, Jr., 1 do., Frank Wiggin 15 days, John Calnan 7 months, Daniel McCarty 12 do., Mary M. Garbarina 16 do., Mary J. Harvey 7 do., Fannie S. Gilman 20 years, Mary J. Wiggin 30 do., Albert E. Berry 20 do., Wm. Benson 53 do., Martha A. R. Bragg 9 do., Ellen Burbank 4 do., Samuel Davis 81 do., Mary A. Lang 32 do., Thomas C. Finn 21 do., Edward Doherty 32 do., Catharine Mehegan 60 do., Margaret Thompson 20 do., David McNinch 20 do., Elizabeth Barrett 17 do., James Callahan 35 do., Michael Donovan 35 do., Adeline Avery 4 do., Margaret Delay 3 do., Timothy Collins 2 do., Wm. Houghton 2 do., Charles W. Clark 3 do., Patrick Gargan 49 do., Jonathan Hunt 2 do., Sarah A. Field 21 do., Michael Manley 28 do., Martin Creahan 5 do., Eda F. Guild 4 do., Mary E. Widger 5 do., Carrie A. Pike 3 do., Maria L. Davis 6 do., Mary M. Murphy 3 months, Patrick J. Delay 2 do., Edmund Walsh 8 do., Margaret A. Burke 3 days, Christopher O'Connor 23 do., John Murphy 32 do., Bernard Duffy 28 do., Charles A. Kilcullan 7 do., Michael Mahoney 3 do., Isaac Scott 27 do., Margaret Walsh 9 months, Francis McCloud 17 do., Hannah E. Whelan 1 day, Luther M. Hamblin 13 months, Margaret Sullivan 19 do., Susan L. Swinson 7 years, John H. Carner 23 do., Lucy A. Quinn 62 do., Catharine Copeland 19 do., Mary A. Strachan 5 do., Harris J. Avery 8 do., John Driscoll 3 do., Clarissa E. Condon 6 do., Adelaide J. Hall 8 do., Patrick Murphy 76 do., Frances Devlin 38 do., Mary Buckley 25 do., Patrick Dillon 34 do., Eugene Mack 3 do., John Ryan 4 do., Margaret Brown 27 do., Wm. A. Maynard 2 do., Peter Donovan 52 do., James P. Sloan 3 do., John Flynn 35 do., Helena Eilhanar 2 do., George Carter 21 do., Joseph Battis 2 do., Charles Nugent 45 do., Timothy Coughlan 25 do., Hugh Holliban 62 do., Daniel O'Donahue 33 do., Robert W. Marshall 2 do., Matilda R. Williams 29 do., Mary Purcell 9 months, Michael Carroll 6 do., Neil Lafferty 6 do., Mary Quin 5 do., Francis Gallagher 3 do., William Matthews 3 do., Edward S. Peele 10 do., Burton Scales 9 do., Walter P. Leet 14 do., Gustavus Suter 16 do., James Galvin 15 days, Lizzie M. Carley 4 do., Julia Callahan 1 day, Eugene Sullivan 7 days, Eliza Dunbrock 4 months, Wm. H. Vizell 6 do., Mary S. Glass 11 do., Mary Searle 63 years, Mary E. Wright 5 do., Thomas Sheehan 50 do., Catharine Breen 22 do., Mary A. Gray 4 do., Hannah C. Young 62 do., Romango Robertson 16 do., Harriet E. West 2 months.

DISEASES.—Burned 2, consumption 22, convulsions 2, croup 2, dropsy 2, dropsy in head 4, diseases infantile 8, diseases unknown 3, typhoid fever 2, scarlet fever 32, intemperance 3, inflammation of lungs 5, pleurisy 2, rheumatism 3, other diseases 1 each, 13; Males 59, Females 46. Total 105. Born in United States 78, Ireland 24, other foreign places 3.

N. A. APPOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

JANUARY 14, 1857.

NUMBER 16.

MEDICAL FAITH.

In Egypt, there have been of late years, a few English and French physicians, who practise according to the rules of modern medicine, as taught in the most enlightened parts of the world. There is at the same time a vast number of the old native practitioners, who pretend to cure everything by charms and amulets, or by such therapeutics as the swallowing of a masked prayer or extract from the Koran. We were much struck lately on hearing an intelligent native of Egypt declare, that it often appeared as if the old practitioners achieved the greater proportion of cures.

The fact—for we can well believe it to be one—seems worthy of some philosophic consideration. It is, we think, generally overlooked by writers on quackery in medicine, that it is not simple credulity that is concerned in supporting the trade of the quack. This credulity is attended with a certain effect, which reacts in justifying the credulous to himself, and making him even bear ridicule with a sort of heroism. It supplies him, in short, with facts, which he believes to be good ground for his faith. The denouncer of quackery neglecting this point, and proclaiming war against his convictions as wholly composed of delusion, leaves him as he found him, and makes but little way in guarding the public against similar absurdities.

The career of all great quackeries has been, for the most part, the same. An ignorant person, in or out of the medical profession, is accidentally impressed with the belief that some particular thing or process is attended with a curative effect. As an example: “A young man who had been brought up as a journeyman cooper, was instructed by his mother in the art of *shampooing*. Shampooing, and other modes of friction have been long known as useful remedies in certain cases of stiff joints and weakened limbs, and as a substitute

for exercise in bedridden patients; and there are many respectable females of the class of nurses in London who practise the art very successfully, and think themselves amply remunerated by earning a few shillings daily. But this youth was more fortunate. One or two cures, which it was reported he had made, caused him to be talked of at every dinner-table. It was believed that he had made a prodigious discovery in the healing art—that shampooing performed according to his method, was a remedy for all disorders. Not only those to whose cases the treatment was really applicable, but those to whose cases it was not applicable at all—patients with diseases of the hip and spine, of the lungs and liver—patients with the worst diseases, and patients with no disease whatever, went to be shampooed. The time of the artist, being fully occupied, rose in value; and we have no doubt that we do not overestimate his gains in saying that, for one or two years his receipts were at the rate of £6,000 annually. Matters went on thus for two or three years, when the delusion ceased as suddenly as it had leapt into vigor, and the shampooer found himself all at once deprived of his vocation.”*

As another and equally instructive example. It was about the close of the last century, that Benjamin D. Perkins, an American surgeon, practising in London, announced the sanative virtues of what he called his *Metallic Tractors*. They were a couple of small tapering pieces of metal—one zinc, the other copper—which the practitioner drew along in repeated passes near the part of the patient affected by disease, giving out that thus the disease was somehow drawn or magnetized away. For a time, persons afflicted with gout, rheumatism, and other disorders, came in vast numbers to Mr. Perkins to be healed. His tractors, for which he had taken out a patent, were sold at five

* From an article in the *Quarterly Review* (vol. lxxi., p. 90), understood to have been written by Sir Benjamin Brodie.

guineas a pair. The Society of Friends, to which body he belonged, benevolently raised a hospital in which he might practise on the poor. At length a Dr. Haygarth, of Bath, hit upon a method of exposing the fallacy of the tractors. "He suggested to Dr. Falconer that they should make wooden tractors, paint them to resemble the steel [?] ones, and see if the very same effects would not be produced. Five patients were chosen from the hospital in Bath, upon whom to operate. Four of them suffered severely from chronic rheumatism in the ankle, knee, wrist, and hip, and the fifth had been afflicted for several months for the gout. On the day appointed for the experiments, Dr. Haygarth and his friends assembled at the hospital, and with much solemnity brought forth the fictitious tractors. Four out of the five patients said their pains were immediately relieved; and three of them said they were not only relieved, but very much benefited. One felt his knee warmer, and said he could walk across the room. He tried and succeeded, although on the previous day he had not been able to stir. The gouty man felt his pains diminish rapidly, and was quite easy for nine hours, until he went to bed, when the twitching began again. On the following day, the real tractors were applied to all the patients, when they described their symptoms in nearly the same terms.

"To make still more sure, the experiment was tried in the Bristol Infirmary, a few weeks afterwards, on a man who had a rheumatic affection in the shoulder, so severe as to incapacitate him from lifting his hand from his knee. The fictitious tractors were brought and applied to the afflicted part, one of the physicians, to add solemnity to the scene, drawing a stop-watch from his pocket to calculate the time exactly, while another, with a pen in his hand, sat down to write the change of symptoms from minute to minute as they occurred. In less than four minutes, the man felt so much relieved, that he lifted his hand several inches without any pain in the shoulder."*

In our own day, we have seen a gigantic system of what may be called uncanonical medicine arise under the name of Homœopathy; and it is still running its course. Its leading dogmas are — that diseases are curable by the articles which naturally produce similar affections in healthy persons, and that these must be administered in infinitesimally small doses.

The explanation of an infinitesimally small dose, gives a key to the character of the system. Take a grain of aconite, for example, and mix it up in a certain quantity of water, then take a drop of this water, and diffuse it through a similar quantity of pure water; then let a drop of that again be diluted in like manner; and so on for *thirty times*, in which case it is arithmetically demonstrable that you have the original grain diffused through a mass of water many million of millions of times larger than the whole earth: a globule or small pill containing some of this infusion becomes the approved dose! At this moment there are hundreds of respectable men practising homœopathy: as one remarkable fact there are three shops for the sale of its peculiar medicines in our own city. It is understood to be in many instances more lucrative than the ordinary practice; yet we see no reason to doubt that the practitioners are, in general, well-meaning and earnest men. There are many curious stories told illustrative of the illusory character of the system. We shall not repeat them, because we do not wish unnecessarily to give offence. But we may be allowed to say that, according to the best judgment we can form regarding homœopathy, we are left no room to doubt that the views of its practitioners are founded in almost unmixed error.

Now, it appears to us, that no such processes as shampooing and magnetizing, no such practice as that of homœopathy, nor any of the many pills, ointments, and other appliances which seek the public favor, could have the least chance of success, if they were wholly illusory — that is to say, if no positive effect, at least, *appeared to follow* from them. The superstitious practitioners of Egypt could not possibly, in our opinion, maintain their ground against the newly introduced English and French physicians, if they in every case left their patients just as they found them. Men in no stage of society are quite so weak and irrational as to continue from age unto age under a pure deception. The opponents, however, of quack-medicines and quack-practices, are usually so weak and irrational (for really it is little less) as to suppose that the bulk of their fellow-creatures are capable of this monstrous amount of delusion; and hence, we believe their small success in disabusing the public of such deception as really exists.

One first, but hitherto neglected step is, in our opinion, necessary, in order to guard man-

* Mackay's Extraordinary Popular Delusions.

kind against empiricisms in medicine ; and this is an acknowledgment of the fact that, in many instances, a cure *has* followed the medicine or treatment, joined, however, with an explanation as to this cure.

In the first place, it may be connected with the taking of the medicine, or the submission to the treatment, merely in point of time. Contrary to the common notion, that a disease, if left to itself, will go on to a fatal conclusion, it is much more apt to go on to a recovery. "Men," says Dr. Simpson, "laboring under diseases, even the most acute, and consequently much more so under slighter ailments, do not as a general rule die, even when left without any medicinal treatment whatever." There is an internal energy in the system, recognized as the *vis medicatrix naturee*, which constantly works to the effecting of a cure ; and often it does so with so much success, that the less positive interference from without the better. Such being the case, it is evident that where a medical attendant merely rubs some part of the body, administers a visionary or otherwise innocuous medicine, or acts in any other way indifferently to the actual disease, that disease may be all the time abating of itself, not in any way affected by the treatment, to which, accordingly, the cure can only be attributed under a mistake.

In the second place, there are cases in which the medicine or treatment may be said to have really effected a cure, more or less thorough and permanent, but in a wholly indirect manner. Its effect in these cases is owing to the intervention of a mental affection on the part of the patient. The maladies to which this principle applies are chiefly of a nervous character. The treatment is an application to the nervous system, which may be called the mainspring of the human constitution ; it is so far, then, an intelligible process. At one time, we see a Valentine Greatrakes giving out that he can cure all diseases by stroking the affected part with his hand ; at another, we have a Prince Hohenloe undertaking to heal the whole of a certain class of ailments in a distant province by his prayers, on the sole condition that the patients have faith in him, and pray to the same purpose at the same time. Or, perhaps, there is a belief, connected with the religious creed of the individual, that if he pilgrimize to a certain saint's well, or tomb, or shrine, and there go through certain ceremonies, his malady will leave him. Or, it may simply be, that some mystical-looking system of therapeutics, like

homœopathy, has acquired a hold upon the faith of the patient. In all cases, the patients are taught to expect something wonderful. A real effect is consequently wrought in them ; and under the powerful impulse given for the moment to the nervous system, the bedrid finds he can rise, the paralytic throws away his crutches, the deaf hears, and even tumors and ulcers subside and are dried up. The possibility of such cures by such means is established beyond all contradiction. One noted case, often alluded to in medical works, is that of the besieged inhabitants of Breda, who, when invalided and bedrid with scurvy and other complaints, were rapidly restored to health by drinking of the solution of what they were told was a very precious drug smuggled into the town, for their especial benefit, by the Prince of Orange, but which was confessedly only a little colored water. We are told that Sir Humphrey Davy cured a paralytic man in a fortnight, by placing daily under his tongue the bulb of a pocket thermometer, from which the patient was led to believe that he inhaled a gas of sovereign virtue. M. Huc informs us in his amusing *Travels in Tartary*, that the Lama there cures all diseases by vegetable pills ; but "if he happens not to have any medicine with him, he is by no means disconcerted : he writes the names of the remedies upon little scraps of paper, moistens the paper with his saliva, and rolls them up into pills, which the patient tosses down with the same perfect confidence as if they were genuine medicaments. To swallow the *name* of a remedy, or the *remedy itself*, comes, say the Tartars, to precisely the same thing !"

It is, we conceive, entirely owing to the fact that diseases thus so frequently vanish under empiric treatment, either in a mere connection of time, or through an indirect efficacy in the treatment, that empiricism takes such a hold of the public mind—nay, that so many medical men, from whom better things are expected, adopt empiric styles of practice. The alleged facts are real ; they are candidly accepted, and honestly acted on ; only they are all the time misinterpreted. What is first, and above all, required, accordingly, in order to save the world from quackery, is, that we meet its practitioners, defenders, and victims, on the ground of an acknowledgment and explanations of these facts. Till this is done, it will, we believe, be quite in vain to hold up to ridicule or lamentation the attestations given by nobles, clergymen, professors, and others, in favor of the cures effected by the Per-

kinses and the St. John Longs, or to deplore that homœopathy brings some men their six thousand a year, while honorable allopatists can sometimes hardly obtain a subsistence. When this is done, and medicine has become a scientific system, we may hope to see true therapeutics aided by the imagination as much as quackeries have been, and the orthodox doctor allowed the full gain which he deserves.—*Cham. Jour.*

MINUTE INJECTIONS OF MAN AND ANIMALS.

By HENRY GOADBY, M. D., F. L. S., &c.

Although highly desirable, as the demonstrator of the capillaries of *normal* tissues, I do not think this kind of injection fitted for morbid preparations, the infiltrated gelatine producing appearances of a puzzling kind, and calculated to mislead the pathologist.

In preparing portions of dried, well-injected skin for examination by the microscope, I have tried the effect of dilute nitric acid, as a corroder, with very good results. But probably, liquor potassæ would have answered this purpose better.

When size injection is to be employed, colored either with vermilion or the chromate of lead, the animal should be previously prepared by bleeding, to empty the vessels; for if they be filled with coagulated blood, it is quite impossible to transmit even size, to say nothing of the coloring matter. Hence the difficulty of procuring good injections of the human subject.

But with the "chemico-gelatinous" injection, no such preparation is necessary; and success should always be certain, for the potash liquifies the blood, while constant and long-continued pressure by the syringe drives it through the parietes of the vessels into the cellular tissue. The large quantity of infiltrated blood—the invariable concomitant of this process—characterizes this from all other modes of injecting, and is a distinctive feature of these preparations.

I find that a superior preparation of gelatine is now on sale at the grocers' shops, nearly equal in appearance to isinglass.

The only preparations of gelatine extant when we made the experiments recorded in our paper, contained a large quantity of dirty insoluble gluten, from which defect we venture to assume the French gelatine is now free.

About the year 1849, Dr. P. B. Goddard, of Philadelphia, proposed a new injecting material.

He took a small portion of vermilion and rubbed it down in a mortar with linseed oil; to this, he added an excess of sulphuric ether. The intention is to employ the ether as a vehicle for conveying coloring matter into the capillary system, which is left behind by the subsequent evaporation of the ether. By this process we have seen some very minute, and beautiful injections, the capillaries being round and full, and retaining their *normal size*, very nearly, whereas in *size* injections they are always preternaturally enlarged.

We so soon succumb to the anæsthetic properties of sulphuric ether, that every attempt to use this form of injection in our hands has failed, simply because we have been compelled to discontinue its use to escape etherization; but it is doubtless a good injection with those persons not so prone to its influence as ourself.

We prefer another form, which is equally good, viz.: after intimately mixing the coloring material, red or yellow, with linseed oil, substitute an excess of *turpentine* for the sulphuric ether. The results of the latter in our hands have been fully equal to any thing we have seen by the ether process.

It has frequently happened that similar inventions originate at the same time, in different parts of the world, by men who have never had the slightest communication with each other; and it may happen we are giving expression to a plan which whilst we believe it originated with ourself, may have been used by other operators. Since our residence in this country (7 years) we have occasionally seen European injections, and a close examination of some of them has convinced us that *size* was not the material that had been employed in their procurement; in fact, they more nearly represented the appearance and effects we have produced with the turpentine (or paint) injection, than anything we can compare them to. If they were not *size*, as little were they chemico-gelatinous; neither were they ether injections—we still think they were a much diluted (by turpentine) *paint*. These remarks apply more particularly to injections of great beauty, by Professor Hirtl, of Berlin; and another and equally significant fact was also apparent—that the injection had not been made in *gross* (in the *body*) but in *detail*, thereby rendering necessary appliances also of our invention (hereafter to be described) of which we have never seen any description.

It is proper to remark that in making either of the two latter injections, *quantity of coloring matter* is immaterial; it is only necessary to make it sufficiently fluid with oil, in the first instance, and to have a *large excess* of ether, or turpentine, ultimately. In use, it should be well mixed up, and a charge drawn from the upper surface while the particles of coloring matter are subsiding.

It will readily be conceived that if equally good, these latter described forms of injection are most desirable, inasmuch as they are soon prepared and are made and used *cold*, which is of great advantage.

In our experience there is one royal road to success with injected preparations — *first empty the vessels* — it is easy enough to refill them. In making preparations of the lower animals, dogs, cats, frogs, &c., &c., we invariably *bled them to death* — after which, allowing them to rest till the rigor mortis had passed off, we *never failed* to make good preparations.

This must have been, of necessity, the *secret* which Ruysch could not divulge — he is said to have *shuddered* when importuned on this subject. Having charge of a large public hospital, it is easy to understand that when he had an already attenuated and good subject for injection, whose case was hopeless, or nearly so, that he *did not scruple to use the lancet freely*, and thus prepared it *secundum artem*, for his injecting syringe, and museum! For many years we have not doubted that this constituted his *sole secret* — one that he could not divulge, without accusing himself as a murderer. Suffice it that no man ever made such splendid injections of the human subject as those he left behind him.

We have frequently been asked what vessels we inject by to procure certain preparations, and perhaps a few general instructions on this subject may not be inappropriate.

It may be well to premise that, as a rule, *veins* should be preferred to *arteries* for the purpose of ensuring fine injections. He, who has seen the circulation of the blood in the web of the frog's foot by the microscope, can have no doubt on this subject, as he will have seen that an artery terminates in a capillary, but that these vessels empty themselves into *numerous veins*, ergo, the shortest way to reach the capillaries is *through the veins*. Some preparations, however, offer an exception to this rule.

We write these papers for the *student* — not for the already accomplished manipulator.

If the intention be to inject the alimentary

canal, from the oesophagus to the anus, insert a pipe in the *portal vein*, as it enters the liver. The anatomist knows that this vein is found to the right of the Lobulus spigelii, its direction being to the *left*.

By this vein, the whole alimentary canal will be beautifully injected with *any form of injection*, if the subject be attenuated, or the vessels previously emptied; moreover, the entire process is carried on beneath the operator's vision, and he can see, therefore, when to discontinue his labor, for fear of producing extravasation and spoiling good preparations.

The vascular structure of the liver is best displayed in a series of injections; the first should be an exposition of the distribution of the portal system. For this purpose the portal vein should be cut as *near to the intestine* as possible, and a pipe secured in it, through which the injection must be thrown till the external lobular surface be minutely injected. The liver injected through the portal vein may have *yellow* injection. Another liver may be injected by the *hepatic* veins with light colored smalt blue. Still a third liver should have, in addition to the two latter systems of vessels, the *hepatic arteries red*. Such preparations are found in our collection, and are exceedingly instructive.

If it be desired to inject a kidney of any animal, the great object will necessarily be to shew the Corpora malpighiana — Malpighian tufts — and to accomplish this the *renal artery must be employed*.

So, if it be desired to show the Corpora wolffiana in the kidneys of frogs, toads, and fishes, the artery must be invariably used for the purpose.

To inject the tissues of the eye minutely, we have always best succeeded in removing them *very carefully* from the body, and inserting pipes in the ophthalmic artery and vein; firstly injecting through the vein till blood colored by injection comes from the pipe inserted in the artery, and then throwing the injection through it.

By this process we have made some beautiful preparations of the choroid coat, retina, ciliary processes, venæ vorticosæ, &c., of a number of animals.

Injections of the lung are easily made: in the frog, a bifid pulmonary vien will be seen passing over the bulbus arteriosus: insert a small pipe *beneath* the bifurcation, that is to say, as close to the heart as possible so as to embrace both branches of the vessel; thus *both lungs* will be injected. In man, and the

higher animals, it is necessary to insert pipes in the pulmonary arteries and veins, injecting by the veins until the injection appears through the pipes inserted in the arteries, when they in their turn should be used till the surface show indications of fulness.

If the lung be human, a large pipe should be secured in the trachea, or large bronchial tube, through which *tallow*, made fluid by heat, should be injected to the *air cells*, which cannot well be seen in a state of collapse; in this condition the organ will soon dry, when it can be sliced up for microscopical examination, the slices being firstly placed in oil of turpentine to dissolve the tallow — the good preparations may then be mounted in Canada balsam.

The lungs of other animals may be inflated, and left to dry, but we have not succeeded in inflating *human* lung; the air appears to transude through the parieties of the parenchyma.

The circulation of reptiles is peculiar; they possess a *ventral vein*, which occupies the mesial line of the abdomen — it assists the portal vein to return the blood from the intestinal tract.

If the operator can succeed in securing a pipe in this vein — no matter whether he inject up or down, he must succeed in obtaining *every tissue of the body* — even to the webs of the feet in frogs — *beautifully* injected!

We have injected numberless frogs by this vein, and always with success; so too, tortoises, and ophidian reptiles (snakes). Many frogs, however, have we injected from the portal vein, employing our dissecting microscope to enable us to insert the pipe; whenever we intended to proceed thus, we firstly bled the animal to death — a process which will occupy the operator *four hours*! The best plan is to open the chest, and snip off the apex of the heart; this will be followed by an instantaneous gush of blood, immediately after which a plug will be formed and the circulation go on as well as ever; this, therefore, must be removed, and the process be repeated simultaneously with the formation of other plugs. The operation is undoubtedly tedious and tiresome, yet the ultimate results — the vessels being entirely emptied — will fully repay the manipulator. In our experience, far less time is consumed in carefully preparing and well injecting *one* frog, than in a series of abortive attempts with several.

There is, however, always more certainty of obtaining a large number of beautiful preparations of every tissue of the body from *foetal*, rather than adult subjects. Foetal lambs and

calves form excellent subjects; in these, a pipe should always be secured in a vein, and the like care and caution displayed as already advised in regard to a human foetus. The bodies of such are *tender*, and should be carefully handled lest the skin be broken and a gap formed for the escape of the injection: whenever this occurs there is an end to the process. — *Med. Independent*.

AN AMERICAN CHEMIST.

Dr. Chilton was born in the city of New York, on the 9th of November, 1808, and, consequently, is still in the prime of life and of mental vigor. Under the eye of his father, the late George Chilton, he was educated with a care and thoroughness that could not but develop his peculiar abilities, which displayed his parent's keen appreciation of his natural gifts, and the public spirit that would permit no selfish object to stand in the way of their devotion to humanity. In the various departments of Natural Philosophy, our subject had made more than ordinary progress at a very early age; but he directed, from choice and a natural inclination, his researches more particularly to Analytical Chemistry. In this branch of knowledge his father, who died in 1836, had acquired a proud reputation, and the son seemed evidently destined to build upon it a lofty monument of distinction. Fortunately, his mental organization was of the kind best adapted to the pursuit of this important branch of his favorite science; and hence he soon brought to bear upon it a vast amount of relative and practical facts, gleaned from the labors of others, as well as of important results obtained by an almost unexampled exercise, on his own part, of patient and unwearied industry.

In 1829, Dr. Chilton, in his earnest and constantly increasing love of science, applied himself to the study of Medicine. In 1834, he graduated, and with the highest encomiums of the presiding faculty. As a medical practitioner he is deservedly respected for the talent and faculty of observation that render him successful. He combines, too, the essential qualities so much needed for usefulness in that profession — a clear head and a kind heart. For a time, he pursued that avocation with the natural ardor that characterizes him in all his undertakings; but the demands of his still more fascinating branch of study, seduced him

from that devotion to the practice of medicine, which would have won for him, with his high order of attainment, a place in the front rank of the profession. He is still, however, in all those cases in which important chemical analyses become imperative, extensively consulted by our most eminent physicians.

The world has a right to look to Dr. Chilton for a work illustrating his experience in the various toxicological cases that have been brought under his immediate attention, or in which it has been his duty to determine valuable and imposing facts. Such a work, we understand, has been in preparation by him for some time, and is looked for with the deepest interest by the scientific world. The unusual practice that his wide-spread reputation has secured for him in analysis, has, so far, no doubt, rendered it impracticable for him to complete his design to gratify the public mind; but we may hope that he will yet seize the earliest opportunity to produce what will unquestionably become the standard reference of the age, upon the subject which it will so elaborately and satisfactorily treat.

It would be out of place here, to advert at length to the social character and position of Dr. Chilton. Both, however, it will do to say, are of the happiest character. With his rare mental endowments, his benevolent and kindly spirit, his affectionate motive, his complete exemption from that sense of envy which disfigures some other great minds, he could not well be anything but most fortunate in his disposition and circumstances. The love of science in him is a passion, that has well rewarded him, in every sense, for his arduous endeavors and his unceasing devotion. May he find a host of imitators!—*Chem. Gaz.*

THE REMARKABLE CASE OF MARGARET LYALL,

WHO CONTINUED IN A STATE OF SLEEP NEARLY SIX WEEKS.

Margaret Lyall, a young woman about twenty-one years of age, daughter of John Lyall, shoemaker, in the parish of Marytown, served during the winter half-year preceding Whitsunday, 1815, in the family of Peter Arkley, Esq., of Dunninald, in the parish of Craig. At the last mentioned term she went as servant to the Rev. Mr. Foote, of Logie; but, in a few days after entering her place, was seized with a slow fever, which confined

her to her bed rather more than a fortnight. During the latter part of her illness she was conveyed to her father's house; and, on the 23d of June, about eight days after she had been able to leave her bed, she resumed her situation with Mrs. Foote, who had, in the meantime, removed to Budden, in the parish of Craig, for the benefit of sea-bathing. She was observed, after her return, to do her work in a rather hurried manner; and, when sent upon any errand, to run or walk very quickly, as if impatient to finish whatever she had in hand. Her health, however, appeared to be perfectly restored, except that her menses were obstructed. On Tuesday morning, June 27th, about four days after her return to service, she was found in bed in a deep sleep, with the appearance of blood having flowed from her nose; and about half a Scotch pint of blood was perceived on the floor, at her bed-side. All attempts to awaken her were utterly ineffectual; and she was conveyed in a cart to her father's house, about half a mile distant from Budden. Dr. Gilson, physician in Montrose, having been called, a pound of blood was taken from her arm; but she still remained in the same lethargic state, without making the slightest motion, or taking any nourishment, or having any kind of evacuation, till the afternoon of Friday, the 30th day of June, when she awoke of her own accord, and asked for food. At this period she possessed all her mental and bodily faculties; mentioned distinctly, that she recollected her having been awakened on Tuesday morning at two o'clock, by a bleeding at her nose, which flowed very rapidly; said she held her head over the bed-side till the bleeding stopped; but declared that from that moment she had no feeling or remembrance of anything, and felt only as if she had taken a very long sleep. An injection was administered with good effect, and she went to sleep as usual; but next morning (Saturday, July 1,) she was found in the same state of profound sleep as before. Her breathing was so gentle as to be scarcely perceptible, her countenance remarkably placid, and free from any expression of distress; but her jaws were so firmly locked, that no kind of food or liquid could be introduced into her mouth. In this situation she continued for the space of seven days, without any motion, food, or evacuation either of urine or fæces. At the end of seven days she began to move her left hand; and by pointing it to her mouth, signified a wish for food. She took readily whatever was given to her, and showed an inclination to eat more

than was thought advisable by the medical attendants. Still, however, she discovered no symptoms of hearing, and made no other kind of bodily movement than that of her left hand. Her right hand and arm particularly, appeared completely dead and devoid of feeling, and even when pricked with a pin, so as to draw blood never shrunk in the smallest degree, or indicated the slightest sense of pain. At the same time, she instantly drew back the left arm, whenever it was touched by the point of the pin. She continued to take food whenever it was offered to her; and when the bread was put into her left hand, and the hand raised by another person to her mouth, she immediately began to eat slowly, but unremittingly, munching like a rabbit, till it was finished. It was remarked, that if it happened to be a slice of loaf which she was eating, she turned the crust, when she came to it, so as to introduce it more easily into her mouth, as if she had been fully sensible of what she was doing. But when she had ceased to eat, her hand dropped upon her chin or under lip, and rested there, till it was replaced by her side, or on her breast. She took medicine, when it was administered, as readily as food, without any indication of disgust; and, in this way, by means of castor oil and aloetic pills, her bowels were kept open; but no evacuation ever took place without the use of a laxative. It was observed, that she always gave a signal, by pushing down the bed-clothes when she had occasion to make any evacuation. The eye-lids were uniformly shut, and, when forced open, the ball of the eye appeared turned upwards, so as to show only the white part of it. Her friends showed considerable reluctance to allow any medical means to be used for her recovery; but, about the middle of July, her head was shaved and a large blister applied, which remained nineteen hours, and produced an abundant issue, yet without exciting the smallest symptom of uneasiness in the patient. Sinapisms were also applied to her feet, and her legs were moved from hot water into cold, and *vice versa*, without any appearance of sensation. In this state she remained, without any apparent alteration, till Tuesday the 8th day of August, precisely six weeks from the time when she was first seized with her lethargy, and without ever appearing to be awake, except, as mentioned, on the afternoon of Friday the 30th of June. During the whole of this period, her color was generally that of health; but her complexion rather more delicate than usual, and occa-

sionally changing, sometimes to paleness, and at other times to a feverish flush. The heat of her body was natural; but when lifted out of bed, she generally became remarkably cold. The state of her pulse was not regularly marked; but, during the first two weeks, it was generally at 50; during the third and fourth week, about 60; and, on the day before her recovery, at 70 or 72; whether its increase was gradual was not ascertained. She continued during the whole period, to breathe in the same soft and almost imperceptible manner as at first; but was observed occasionally, during the night time, to draw her breath more strongly, like a person who had fallen asleep. She discovered no symptoms of hearing, till about four days before her recovery; when, upon being requested (as she had often been before, without effect) to give a sign if she heard what was said to her, she made a slight motion with her left hand, but soon ceased again to show any sense of hearing; and by moving her left hand, intimated her assent or dissent in a tolerably intelligent manner; yet, in the afternoon of the same day, she seemed to have again entirely lost all sense of hearing. About eight o'clock on Tuesday evening, her father, a shrewd, intelligent man, and of a most respectable character, anxious to avail himself of her recovered sense of hearing, and hoping to rouse her faculties by alarming her fears,* he sat down at her bed-side, and told her that he had now given consent, (as was in fact the case,) that she should be removed to the Montrose Infirmary; that, as her case was remarkable, the doctors would naturally try every kind of experiment for her recovery; that he was very much distressed, by being obliged to put her entirely into their hands; and would "fain hope" that this measure might be still rendered unnecessary, by her getting better before the time fixed for her removal. She gave evident signs of hearing him, and assented to his proposal of having the usual family-worship in her bed-room. After this was over, she was lifted into a chair till her bed should be made; and her father, taking hold of her right hand, urged her to make an exertion to move it. She began to move first the thumb, then the rest of the fingers in succession, and next her toes in like

* Lest it might be supposed that this procedure of the father implies a suspicion on his part of some deception being practised by the young woman, it may be proper to state that it was suggested by his own experience in the case of another daughter, who had been affected many years before in a very extraordinary degree with St. Vitus dance, and who was almost instantaneously cured by the application of terror.

manner. He then opened her eye-lids, and presenting a candle, desired her to look at it, and asked, whether she saw it. She answered "yes," in a low and feeble voice. She now proceeded gradually, and in a very few minutes, to regain all her faculties; but was so weak as scarcely to be able to move. Upon being interrogated respecting her extraordinary state, she mentioned that she had no knowledge of anything that had happened; that she remembered, indeed, having conversed with her friends at her former awakening, (Friday afternoon, 30th of June,) but felt it a great exertion then to speak to them; that she recollected also having heard the voice of Mr. Corire, minister in Montrose, (the person who spoke to her on the forenoon of Tuesday the 8th of August,) but did not hear the persons who spoke to her on the afternoon of the same day; that she had never been conscious of having either needed or received food, of having been lifted to make evacuations, or of any other circumstance in her case. She had no idea of her having been blistered; and expressed great surprise upon discovering that her head was shaved. She continued in a very feeble state for a few days, but took her food nearly as usual, and improved in strength so rapidly, that on the last day of August she began to work as a reaper in the service of Mr. Arkley of Dunninald; and continued to perform the regular labor of the harvest for three weeks, without any inconvenience, except being extremely fatigued the first day.

After the conclusion of the harvest, she went into Mr. Arkley's family, as a servant; and on the 27th day of September, was found by her fellow servants in her former state of profound sleep, from which they were unable to rouse her. She was conveyed immediately to her father's house, (a little more than a quarter of a mile distant,) and remained exactly fifty hours in a gentle, but deep sleep, without making any kind of evacuation, or taking any kind of nourishment. Upon awakening, she arose apparently in perfect health, took her breakfast, and resumed her work as usual, at Dunninald. On the 11th of October, she was again found in the morning in the same lethargic state; was removed to the house of her father, where she awoke as before, after the same period of fifty hours' sleep; and returned to her service, without seeming to have experienced any inconvenience. At both of these times her menses were obstructed. Dr. Henderson, physician in Dundee, who happened to be on a visit to his friends in Dunninald, prescribed

some medicines suited to that complaint; and she has ever since been in good health, and able to continue in service.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF JOHN T. SHOTWELL, M. D.

The medical profession offers to its members, when faithful to their duties, not only extraordinary means and opportunities of obtaining the respect and esteem of the cultivators of science, but also of acquiring the warm attachment and affectionate gratitude of a circle of friends, more or less extensive, in proportion to the extent of their practice. This, although one of the most desirable blessings of life, is, to the physician, frequently the cause of its premature termination. Of these remarks, the subject of this sketch furnishes a very significant example.

JOHN T. SHOTWELL was born in Mason County, Kentucky, on the 10th of January, 1807. His parents were immigrants from New Jersey, at an early period in the history of the West, and were among those who established its character as the home of hardy, brave, enterprising men, of indomitable perseverance; and of kind-hearted, true-hearted, womanly women.

His father was a farmer during the early period of the life of his three sons; and his example, as well as his precepts, laid a foundation in their characters for the industrious habits in their several professions, by which they were distinguished.

A love of literature in early life was remarked in the character of John, the eldest son, and his father determined to give him the best opportunities which the West afforded for the cultivation of this taste. This, with other reasons, induced the removal of the family to Lexington, where he entered the Transylvania University in 1822, and graduated in 1825, with so high a reputation for scholarship, that the late Dr. Drake, with that appreciation of character by which he was distinguished, was desirous to have him embrace the medical profession, and offered all the aids and advantages within his control, to qualify him for that excellence which he foresaw awaited him in that profession.

He entered the office of Dr. Drake in 1826, and continued his pupil until 1830, when he became his partner. His health having been impaired during his pupilage by too incessant devotion to his studies, he was induced in the

Spring of 1829 to try the effects of a journey in a more southern climate for its restoration.

He first went to New Orleans, and from thence journeyed on horseback through several of the Southern States and the Indian nations. This journey, although attended with much fatigue and exposure, greatly improved his health; and his habit of observation, and of making the result of his observations practically useful in the principal pursuits of his life, added strength to his mind in proportion as exercise in open air added to the strength of his body. He became a graduate of Medicine at the Medical College of Ohio in 1832, and having dissolved his connection with Dr. Drake, he commenced practice with the advantages derived from that connexion and the reputation he had already acquired; and when the cholera visited this city, in that year, he became most extensively known as a successful practitioner, and as characterized by that amenity of disposition and anxiety for success in his treatment of cases, which convert patients into friends, and inspire that confidence which facilitates the labors of the physician, as well through a strict observance of his directions, as from the curative influence of faith and hope.

He married in 1832 Miss Mary Ward Foote, daughter of John P. Foote, Esq., of this city, and during the remainder of his life, displayed those amiable qualities as a husband which won so strongly the attachment of all who knew him, both as a physician and a man.

In the year 1832, Dr. Shotwell was appointed adjunct Professor of Anatomy to his friend, the celebrated Dr. Cobb, who then occupied the chair of Anatomy in the Medical College of Ohio, and whose fame as a teacher of that science was rapidly extended throughout this United States, and excited competition in other institutions to obtain the advantages of the talents. Among the offers of chairs made him in other cities, he chose to accept that of the Medical Institute at Louisville, Ky., in which he remained until his bodily health became so affected by his labors as to necessitate an abandonment of the duties of a medical instructor. His resignation of the professorship he held in the Medical College of Ohio, was followed by that of all the other professors except Dr. Locke, who was in Europe at that time, and Dr. Shotwell, who was appointed to succeed Dr. Cobb.

He commenced his lectures on Anatomy at the session of 1837-8, and except for one session, continued during the remainder of his

life, among the most highly esteemed members of the Faculty; increasing annually in reputation, and in the power of aiding the attractions of the institution which he adorned.

The strong inclination to devote his practice exclusively to surgery, which would naturally be developed by devotion to the duties of his chair, induced him, in 1842, to visit Europe for the purpose of learning from the celebrated surgeons of France and England, any improvement which their extensive practice had enabled them to make in their profession, a knowledge of which would be useful to him as an operator. He considered that his journey had been successful, and that the advantages thus obtained were a full compensation for the loss of time and expense of the journey.

For the purpose of relinquishing all except surgical practice, he formed a partnership with his former pupil, Dr. H. E. Foote, intending to be relieved, by this association, from as much of his ordinary regular practice as possible. Had he been permitted to carry this plan into *full* effect, his valuable life might perhaps have been spared. But during the cholera season of 1850, his regular patients would not dispense with his attendance, and many others, in their anxiety to obtain his services, added to the fatigue, labor, and exposure he was compelled to undergo. His own health soon yielded to his solicitude for the health of others, and one evening, on his return home from a very arduous series of labors, he found himself unable to do more, and went to bed with a determination to take that rest which he found had become absolutely essential to the preservation of his power to continue his usefulness. Foreseeing that calls would be made upon him during the night, his family determined that all of them should be dismissed without his knowledge. This was done with several applicants, but at length one of them insisted so strongly on seeing him, and asking at his bedside for advice in the case of his wife, whom he considered in a peculiarly dangerous condition, that he was permitted to do so, and being there, he represented to the doctor that the life of his wife depended on seeing him — that her confidence in his skill was such that the mere sight of him would be more efficacious for her recovery than any medicine that could be administered. The doctor could not resist this appeal, and left his bed, to which he returned after his visit, but never left again. In the eloquent memoir of him, by his attached and steady friend, Dr. J. L. Vattier, the following statement is given

of the commencement and termination of his disease :—

“On the morning of the 14th of July, he visited the Hospital. On his way home, finding himself quite unwell, he called at my house to rest himself. He looked pale and haggard: remained twenty minutes and left for his home. That night he was summoned to attend a patient on Third street, and while preparing for the visit, was assailed with unmistakable symptoms of Cholera. He, however, attended the call, and while yet at the house of his patient, the symptoms becoming more aggravated in their character, he was forced to resort to medical remedies to enable him again to reach his home.

The next morning his friend, that excellent physician, Dr. Walcot Richards, was summoned to attend him, and continued to have the principal charge of his case up to the time of his death. I saw him frequently, as did many others of his numerous friends.

His disease assumed a malignant character, and he was for a while considered in imminent danger; at last, however, medical skill obtained the mastery, and he commenced to convalesce, and continued to do so for several days. He was patient under suffering, and looked forward with hope to a speedy restoration to health; but this hope proved false, for with him all life's scenes were fast drawing to a termination. The improvement in his condition was not destined to be permanent; reaction became too violent: congestion of the brain set in, and though every means was resorted to that medical skill could suggest, death closed the scene at 11½ o'clock, P. M., on the 23d of July.”

His death was regarded as a public calamity by all classes of citizens; and a stranger, on seeing the immense assemblage at his funeral, anxious to pay the last tribute of affection and respect, would have understood that a great man had fallen; and if he had inquired what manner of man, and who it was that had such power after death over the hearts and feelings of such a multitude, he would have been told that a good man was lost to a numerous body of friends, who justly appreciated his virtues and talents; that a heavy affliction was laid on the poor who had experienced their benefits; and that the science of medicine had lost one of its most promising cultivators, in the death of John T. Shotwell. — *Cin. Med. Obser.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

(Translated from the German by H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M.D.)

CASES OF PNEUMONIA.

By Dr. Sigfried Kapper, of Dobriz, near Prague

From the Zeitschrift für Hom. Klinik.

(Concluded.)

IV.—*Pneumonia lobaris genuina.*

A servant girl, twenty-five years old, was taken on February 9th with chills, lasting several hours, followed by burning heat, violent thirst, headache, and bilious vomiting. Hard work was said to be the cause of this trouble. I was called on February 10th, and found patient in the following condition.

General appearances. Patient was of a powerful muscular build; hot dry skin, face flushed, with an expression of great anxiety; glittering eyes, pulsating carotids, dorsal decubitus. Pulse 100. Thirst. Tongue moist and coated. Constipation. Urine scanty and high-colored. The menstrual discharge had taken place two weeks before.

Objective local symptoms. Respiration accelerated, but not short. The motions of the thorax are regular and symmetrical. Percussion and auscultation show nothing abnormal.

Subjective symptoms. In the lower part of the right chest there is a feeling of weight and pressure, which causes a shortness of breath. Occasionally a few darting pains. But little cough.

Although a probable diagnosis could be formed from the above symptoms, still the true state of the case was not yet distinctly pronounced. Prescribed *aconite*, third dilution, three drops in six table-spoonfulls of water, one table-spoonfull every two hours.

Feb. 11th. After the second dose of *aconite* the fever diminished, and a copious perspiration set in. But in the evening the feeling of pain and pressure in the right side increased, the respiration was more difficult and anxious, the cough more painful, and the expectoration was tinged with blood. To-day these symptoms continue, and the following signs have also appeared: at the posterior inferior portion of the right lung there is dulness on percussion,

and crepitant rale; higher up there are indistinct mucous rales.

Diagnosis. Pnuemonia lobaris genuina.

Treatment. *Phosphor.*, first dilution, gtt. three in aquafont, unc. III.; one tea-spoonful every two hours.

Feb. 12th. The local symptoms continue unchanged. Fever very moderate. The cough is accompanied with little pain. Rusty-colored expectoration. *Phosphor.*, first dilution, as yesterday.

Feb. 13th. The tympanitic sound on percussion has disappeared. Fine subcrepitant rale has taken the place of the crepitus. The cough is less painful. The expectoration is of a pale, rusty-yellow color. Sediment in the urine. General transpiration. *Phosphor.*, 3d dil., gtt. 1, three times during the day.

Feb. 14th. Physical signs as yesterday. Whitish, mucous expectoration, with indistinct rusty streaks. The patient is cheerful, and feels that she will recover. Respiration equal on the two sides, and more full. No medicine.

Feb. 15th. Very little expectoration, — sometimes of a yellow color. Otherwise the patient's condition is natural.

Feb. 16th. The patient left her bed, and I discharged her from treatment. Three days later she went about her occupation.

I have reported this case because I consider it an instructive example of the operation of *Phosphorus*. A pneumonia, which commenced with violent symptoms, and which would probably have gained considerable extension, was cut short at its commencement, and resolution was induced in the first stage.

V.

Anna Wessely, an old lady of seventy-four, in reduced circumstances, and subsisting on the charity of others, after a walk to a neighboring village, was taken in the evening with such violent sickness and pain in the head that she sent for her priest, and, absolutis absolvendis, the next morning sent for the physician.

March 13th. I found the patient in the following condition:

General appearances. A very reduced, but cleanly and pious old lady, of a feeble constitution — such as would be expected at her age. Head hot — temporal arteries swollen and pulsating. Face flushed, eyes sparkling, and sensitive to light. Skin hot and dry, like parchment. Lips and tongue red and dry. The bowels, which were generally open daily, were confined. Urine scanty — high-colored.

Pulse from eighty to eighty-five, full, but soft Thirst.

Objective symptoms. Auscultation and percussion revealed nothing of importance, except a catarrh of many years' standing. Quick, but regular respiration.

Subjective symptoms. A feeling of oppression in the right side, extending up to the scapula. A sensation of suffocation, which causes the quick breathing. Desire to cough, unaccompanied by the usual expectoration. Patient can only lie on her back.

Without forming a positive diagnosis, I prescribed *Belladonna*, sixth dilution, six drops in twelve table-spoonfulls of water, a table-spoonful every three hours. In the intervals, a strong, clear barley-broth was to be taken.

March 14th. At the inferior portion of the right thorax, moderately dull sound on percussion — weak bronchial respiration. Rusty-colored expectoration. Continuance of the other symptoms.

Diagnosis. *Pneumonia senilis.* *Bellad. contin.*

March 15th. The head is more clear; the fever has moderated; the skin is in a warm perspiration; the urine is sedimentitious. Local symptoms as yesterday; but at the diseased point, a few mucous rales can be heard. I can see no reason to change the treatment.

March 16th and 17th. There was gradual general improvement under the use of the same remedy. The dull sound on percussion, and the bronchial respiration, disappeared entirely, and the old constitutional catarrh returned.

The patient was discharged from treatment.

The previous cases were all treated with only one, or at least very few remedies. But I was not always so fortunate as to succeed in this way, for I had cases where I was obliged to make frequent changes. But I confess willingly that it was afterwards almost always apparent that the blame lay not in the Homoeopathic Materia Medica, but rather in my too great anxiety, or want of a full appreciation of the case. Almost always it was some single remedy which was followed by manifest improvement; and on a due consideration of the properties of this remedy, it was always manifest that I would have been right in giving it from the beginning. *Phosphorus* may be considered one of the most important remedies in pneumonia; but although it is frequently used, it cannot be considered a *universal* remedy. I never saw a case terminate favorably under the use of *aconite* alone.

I lay great weight on the regimen. I have found that cold water, given often and in small quantities, was very refreshing to the patient, and, for eight years that I have used it, I never knew it to do any harm. Neither have I seen any bad effects from the use of milk, whey, or buttermilk. I also allow good soup, if palatable to the patient, and even yolk of egg in sweetened water. A high temperature is always injurious, more so than a room entirely unheated.

Last summer I attended a farm-laborer with pneumonia, successfully, who lay in an ill-protected barn, which was not reached by the sun all day, and was, consequently, unpleasantly cold. I avoid the use of thick coverings, such as feather-beds, and prefer a blanket, or cloak. Constipation I never combat by any other means than simple injections of water. Under this regimen, and a Homœopathic treatment from the commencement, I have never observed a transition to a nervous state, or a protracted convalescence; although I have often witnessed them after treatment by depletion, and the use of hot drinks.

I shall now give an account of the five fatal cases.

1. Mrs. St., of A., forty-five years old, mother of several children, of slender build, emaciated, very feeble, has raised blood when a girl, and at various periods since that time. These attacks had always been combated by venesections.

The patient was taken sick in November, 1854. For five days she did not send for a physician, from fear of taking medicines. During this time, a female adviser had applied fifteen leeches, and administered three cups of infusion of senna per diem.

Being called on the sixth day of the disease, I found the following condition. General debility, waxy, yellow coloration, eyes deep-set, nose sharp, heat externally and chills internally, cold, viscid moisture on the forehead, pulse small and trembling. At the apices of both lungs, dull sound on percussion: the whole right side of the chest also dull; corresponding to this, almost entire impermeability of the right lung. Lips and tongue dry, brown, and fissured. Respiration accelerated, short and anxious, without motion of the thorax. Short, feeble cough, without expectoration. Thirst sometimes for warm, sometimes for cold drinks. Great anxiety, alternating with delirium. Administered *Phosph.*, *Arsen.* *Tart. emet.*, *Prhus tox.* and sulphur, without any effect. Death

took place on the eighth day, during an excess of cough.

2. P., a day-laborer, fifty-seven years old, leading a life of utter destitution, begged me to come to him on March 5th, 1855. He had been lying sick for a week without any care or assistance. I found an individual originally of strong build, but now entirely reduced; moderate fever, with external heat and violent thirst. Lips and tongue dark-brown, dry and parched. Light delirium. Percussion and auscultation only showed a dull sound and all kinds of rales in the right upper lobe of the lung. Respiration difficult, quick, short, painful. Dark-reddish brown expectoration, of an offensive odor.

Diagnosis. Pneumonia septica in individuus tuberculoso.

Sulphur, eighteenth dilution, one drop every three hours, seemed to bring some alleviation; but two days after the patient appeared worse, without any extension of the local symptoms. Very rapid loss of strength. Excessive anxiety and restlessness, with gasping for breath. *Arsen.*, sixth dilution, relieved the patient for about twenty-four hours. The sputa were less highly colored, but retained their putrid and offensive odor. During the night the patient died.

Cases 3, 4, and 5, were all old women, over seventy years of age. One of them, blind in both eyes, had fallen down the cellar stairs. From that time she complained of pain at the posterior part of the right side of the chest, although externally nothing could be observed except a superficial excoriation. I was called immediately, and gave *arnica* internally. The next day, rusty-colored sputa, and short, panting respiration. Percussion showed nothing abnormal. Auscultation. Crepitant rale, mucous rale, bronchial respiration—in fact a confused mixture of all sorts of sounds: at the same time, stertorous sopor, complete insensibility. *Arnica*, alternately with *Bryonia*. On the following day there was dull, resistant percussion over the lower part of the right thorax, flattening of the intercostal spaces, no respiratory sound, excessive dyspnoea—death. *Diagnosis.*—Pneumonia, caused by internal injuries, with fatal exudation of blood into the pleural cavity.

In the two other cases there was pneumonia hypostatica after long infirmity and confinement in bed. None of the remedies given (*Bell.*, *Nux.*, *China*, *sulphur*, *arsen.*, *Carbo veg.*, *Phosph.*) had any influence on the course of the disease.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NO. VIII.—BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

The Feet—Their Proper Use and Management—The Anatomy of the Foot—The Turks and their Feet—Boots and Shoes—Cotton and Woollen Stockings—Sympathy between the Feet and other Organs.

Much is depending upon the proper management of the feet.

The *anatomy* of the human skin is very curious. The *scarf*, or outer skin, is hard and dry. The true skin beneath is composed of minute fibres, first gathered into bundles, then interwoven into each other, so as to form a web. This web is very compact, yet porous. The pores grow larger as they descend deeper, until, in the lowest part, they have a diameter of about one-twelfth of an inch. The pores are nearly round, and separated by strands of fibres of double their own diameter. Hence, the lower surface of the skin resembles a coarse net. The strands or fibres are connected with the fat under the skin.

It is a curious question to know how we can support the whole body upon so sensitive a layer as the skin of the foot.

The wonderful mechanism of the foot alone can explain the phenomenon. The wisdom of the Maker may be seen in it.

A membrane is so constructed, as to present different *qualities*, at different *depths*, upon the same surface, giving an *even* support to the sensitive layer which is placed upon it. Then a coarse net-work that will expand every way, and again return to its original form, composes another membrane. The open meshes are filled with a cushion of fat. Thus, the construction is more complete for elasticity and yielding to pressure, concussion, or contusion, than any *spring* cushion which art can construct. Such is a small part only of the curious anatomy of the foot, with which it is not now necessary to proceed further.

We might learn a profitable lesson from the Turks, or any of the Eastern nations, respecting the management of the feet. It may be deemed unnecessary to dilate upon the severity of the manner in which we treat our feet, because every one knows where the shoe pinches. We crowd them into black moulds, deprive them of the benefit of air, and too frequently of water and never allow them to

raise themselves from a low grade of existence; and, as these very useful organs of locomotion have never been raised above this state of degradation and suffering, we imagine such degradation to be necessary, and such suffering unavoidable. But, if we would take a lesson from the East, from whence report says "light has always come," our erroneous ideas on this subject might be corrected. There, certainly, the privileges of the feet are far superior. There, they share an equality of rights with their brother hands, and are allowed to take upon themselves an equal share of duty. Their presence offends no sense. Their aspect excites no aversion. They are respectfully placed on the great man's sofa, in the full enjoyment of air, light, and water. There *they* use boots and shoes, instead of *being used* by them. Our boot and shoe despotism does not reign there.

We shrink away from, and despise the slave who can kiss the toe of his Holiness the Pope, or of any Eastern monarch. This, we think, is quite too much for young America. It would, indeed, be so, if *the* foot of the Western were the foot of the Eastern world. Here lies our error,—*the* foot there is not the abject, offensive, cabined, cribbed, confined, unclean thing which we often carry about with us, and hide in a boot. The foot there rejoices, as of old, in a buskin, like that which covered the head in the days of Roman grandeur, denoting the quality of the man. An Eastern traveller has well said, "When the festal henna imparts its dye to the rosy fingers, it disdains not to bestow it on the toes; and the artful coquette, conscious of the power of a pretty foot, calls attention thereto by dyeing the nail of the third toe, when she tinges that of the third finger."

But we need not go to ancient or modern Turkish, or other heathen records, or modern travellers, to learn the value of a proper attention to the feet. We have it from the pure fount of Inspiration. Abraham washed the feet of his visitors at the door of his tent, and our great Exemplar washed his disciples' feet.

Many have ruined their health by not giving proper care to their feet. Not one boot or shoe maker in a hundred knows how to construct a boot or a shoe properly. They are almost never shaped like the foot, and often quite too small. Hence, pressure is made upon various parts, and corns, bunions, and inverted nails, are frequent companions of those who wear them. No one deserves pity

* Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

or compassion for *corns* but the poor child or idiot. A frequent result of obstructing the growth of the nail of the great toe is, the surgeon has to come and cut off the toe. The late Dr. John C. Warren was accustomed to say to his medical students, "I have cut off more than forty for such a cause."

A boot or shoe made of leather only, no matter how thick the sole, will never protect the feet from wet, because the skins of all animals are porous, and the process of *tanning* never obliterates the pores. Hence, all leather is permeable to the slightest exposure to wet or dampness. Every shoe should have inserted between the soles a slip of bladder or gum elastic, or a piece of one of these should be worn inside.

The best kind of stocking for a covering next the skin, in most cases, is made of *cotton*. The feet of most persons perspire so much, that with a thick woollen stocking they very soon become damp and uncomfortable. Often there are catarrhal and bronchial difficulties which arise from, and are kept up by, this constant dampness of the feet.

A clergyman once applied for medical advice for a bronchial difficulty which had troubled him some years. To the question, "Do you wear woollen stockings? Are your feet damp and cold? Do they perspire freely?" he answered in the affirmative. He was relieved of the difficulty, and the chief medical advice was to exchange his woollen for cotton stockings, wash and rub his feet daily, and get them well warmed before going to bed at night.

In my own case, I have found my feet much more comfortable, even in the winter, with cotton, than with woollen stockings. I learned the value of using cotton instead of woollen stockings, for damp and moist feet, from a gentleman in New York, who had worn the cotton for twenty years; and I would not be induced to go back to the use of the woollen upon any consideration.

A missionary, now entered into his rest, but who lived to a good old age, once told me he was in early life troubled with an irritation of the throat and constant bronchial expectoration for several years. During all this time, he wore woollen stockings, and his feet were constantly damp. Soon after exchanging them for cotton, he lost his bronchial trouble.

It is true the feet should be warmly clad; but, in all such cases as have been above described, they will be much warmer with cotton than with woollen stockings.

Nothing tends more readily to produce irri-

tation and inflammation of the throat than damp feet. But the worst kind of damp feet, that which is constantly present, arises from wearing woollen stockings, where the feet naturally perspire. It would be much preferable to wear no covering to the feet, as the Indians of this country often do, than to bandage them with a mass of wool. Some years since, a portion of the Penobscot tribe, visited Squantum, in the town of Quincy, Massachusetts, in the month of October. The weather was unusually cold for the season. To one who had little or no clothing on his lower extremities, the question was asked, "if he were not cold." Putting his finger significantly to his nose, he said, "*Why aint your nose cold?*" and then added, "*I am all face.*"

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

THE CURE OF DISEASE BY MOVEMENTS.

BY CHAS. F. TAYLOR, M. D.

It is probably not generally known, on this side of the Atlantic, that there has existed in Sweden, for nearly half a century, a system of treating disease by scientifically directed movements, having the patronage of Government and the Royal Family; and exercises founded on the same principles, adapted to the development of the well-being employed in the military training establishments, and even in the schools of that country.

Lately other governments have taken it up; and, by the favorable reports of commissions sent to investigate the matter, Prussia, Russia, Austria, Saxony, and Hesse Darmstadt, have Institutions similar to those of Stockholm under the patronage of the respective governments. In all, public and private, there are on the continent about *forty* Institutions where many forms of chronic disease are treated after Ling's system of Medical Gymnastics, Kinesipathy, or more properly movement cure.

In England, there have lately been established four private institutions, under the direction mostly of well-educated medical men and earnest advocates of Ling's system, where a considerable number of patients afflicted with various diseases are daily treated. Recently, the writer spent several months in England, for the purpose of investigating this, at first thought novel mode of treating disease, and the result of what he saw is the conviction that scientifically directed bodily movements may become a therapeutic agent of great value.

There is nothing in Ling's system of movements that at all corresponds with, or bears any relation to, ordinary gymnastics; but every movement is in accordance with the anatomy of the part acted upon, and is made in such a manner as to promote physiological action in the tissues. Take, for example, a simple case of chronic cold hands and feet; this condition is often a symptom of disease, yet it may also be the *cause* of disease. To say nothing of the influence on the nervous system, arising from imperfect nutrition in the parts from partial non-performance of the chemical-vital acts, there are *physical* reasons why this state of things may cause, in some circumstances, dangerous derangements of vital organs.

The capillaries of the extremities being closed or partially collapsed, the heart's action is insufficient to force the blood into them, and the vital current must return by a much shorter route, thus pressing upon and accumulating in the central organs, destroying the normal performance of their functions, and hence more or less liable to disease.

Suppose the case of a nervous weakly female; artificial heat applied affords only temporary relief; you tell her to "take exercise." She returns from her walk weary and exhausted, with pain in the side and back, languid expression of countenance, and feet and hands colder than before, with increased pressure of blood upon the heart and lungs.

Now, instead, suppose this lady be made to sit or lie in the most comfortable position possible, in which no voluntary muscular effort is needed to retain the position; various movements are then made by the operator upon the extremities; the feet are rubbed, thus putting the elastic and ligamentous tissues in alternate extension and relaxation, causing a movement forwards of the fluids; resistance is made, according to the patient's strength, while the flexors and extensors of the foot are brought into alternate contraction, thus intensifying the functional property of contractility, which has the effect of propelling the blood in the venous capillaries forward; the patient resists while the operator flexes and extends the foot, thus making what is technically termed "excentric contractions;" the muscle being drawn out while attempting to contract, the effect of which is a greatly increased flow of arterial blood into the capillaries. At the same time, neither innervation nor arterial circulation is called off to other parts, by any other muscular movements, but there is a concentration of nerve force upon, and an increased flow of the vital fluid

towards, the parts acted upon, to respond to the demand made upon them.

The effect of all this will be a better capillary circulation in the extremities, better consequent calorification and nutrition of the part; the unloading of internal congested organs; and what is of as great importance to the sick, a husbanding of nerve force. In what other way, in the case supposed, could the indications have been so speedily and effectually responded to?

Again, what rational and effectual method is there known to the profession of treating spinal curvatures? The straight jacket plan and other methods of confinement, whereby the patient is made to lie for months and even years in one position, in violation of the plainest hygienic laws, always considered barbarous, is being modified or abandoned in many Orthopædic hospitals. Yet there are many cases of spinal curvature, especially where there is little or no organic change in the osseous texture, that are perfectly amenable to treatment, as the writer has frequently seen. Take a case of scoliosis to the right. In this case, the muscles on the right side of the spine in the dorsal, supra-lumbar, and infraservicle regions will be relaxed and elongated, while those of the corresponding parts on the left side will be permanently retracted. There will also be two compensating curvatures to the left, viz: a slight one in the lumbar and a greater in the cervicle region. At the same time, the right shoulder will be thrown back and up, and there will be more or less twist to the left. This condition of things may be caused by general weakness; by reflex action from irritation in other parts, or from injuries by improper positions in many trades, or in study accompanied by want of proper exercise; or, whatever may be the cause, it is evident that a rational cure should be sought by restoring a healthy condition in the contractile, tendonous, and elastic tissues which are at fault. This can only be done by promoting their functions, by proper movements or exercises adapted to their several pathological conditions. Such rythmical movements as will promote development in the retracted muscular and ligamentous tissues, (by causing an increased arterial capillarity,) and promote the tonic and contractile capacity of the relaxed and expanded tissues (by relieving the relaxation and partial stagnation in the venous capillaries of these parts,) would be appropriate in this case.

In cases of chronic diarrhoea, according to Ling's system, movements that accelerate the venous circulation prevent the effusion of

serum into the intestinal tube by carrying it more rapidly forward into the general torrent of circulation; or in constipation, the conditions of secretion are supplied by causing a healthy arterial capillarity.

Inguinal hernia, a malady said to be present in ten per cent. of the adult male population of civilized countries, is the consequence of the relaxation and spreading apart of the tendonous and elastic tissues of several muscles, thus allowing the contents of the abdomen to escape between the separated fibres; and though a truss will afford temporary relief, yet there is always danger that through carelessness or unavoidable circumstances, strangulation may occur, subjecting the individual to the pains and perils of an operation: with any treatment a permanent cure is seldom obtained. Movements that develop the contractile power of the abdominal muscles, giving them tonicity and strength, and imparting a healthy circulation and nutrition in the tendonous and elastic tissue connected with the inguinal canal, and especially contractions of the transversalis and obliquus internus abdominis, whose conjoined tendon is pressed to one side by the hernial sack, and the obliquus externus abdominis, whose split tendon forms the pillars of the external ring, would have a direct tendency, by restoring the tendonous fibres from the bent to a straight line, to close the hernial aperture. There are well-authenticated cases of inguinal hernia being greatly relieved or permanently cured.

It is evident that treatment based upon the same principle of strengthening the contractile fibres of the part, would be equally applicable to ventral hernia. The various forms of struma are benefited by this treatment. In this disease there is feeble nutrition of nerve, as well as muscular fibre, — hence the feeble volition and utter inability to take any but the gentlest active exercise in these cases. Ordinary gymnastics, or any muscular efforts beyond the feeblest and very inefficient degree, exhaust the nervous energies, and are more frequently than otherwise attended with unfavorable results. Muscular development and increased strength, in such cases, do not result from physical exercise as ordinarily practised, though such may result from bettered health, obtained through appropriate treatment and hygiene. The glandular affections in struma are said to be caused by the imperfect lymphatic circulation. There is no centre of impulse in the lymphatic, as in the sanguineous systems, but its integrity seems to depend di-

rectly, perhaps entirely, on a tonic condition of contractile fibre to support the vessel walls, and to propel the lymph towards the torrent of the sanguineous circulation. How can this tonic condition of muscular fibre and tendonous tissue be brought about?

By the system of scientific movements under consideration, the patient is *acted upon* — the exercises are administered to him as a bath would be; he responds according to the indications, by the function of contracting, the same as he would respond to the administration of a bath by the calorific function. Innervation is husbanded and accumulated; sanguineous capillary circulation is increased and nutrition promoted; the walls of the lymphatic vessels are sustained and their contents hastened forwards; chemico-vital change facilitated and hematosiis improved; and in all respects the great functional activities of the system are promoted.

Proceeding upon the assumption that *motion is the expression of life*; that health consists in the *proper performance of function*; that this can only take place when all functional activities are brought into *harmonious development*, Ling's system proceeds to classify the vital phenomena under three heads: "1st. Dynamical phenomena, manifestations of mind, moral and intellectual powers. 2d. Chemical phenomena, assimilation, sanguinification, secretion, nutrition, &c. 3d. Mechanical phenomena, voluntary and organic; respiration, mastication, deglutition, circulation, &c."

"The union and harmony of these three orders of phenomena characterize a perfect organization, and every vital act is accomplished under their combined influence."

"The different shares these phenomena take in a certain vital act, gives it its peculiar character."

"The state of health depends, accordingly, on the equilibrium and harmony that ought to exist between the functions of those tissues or organs in which these three orders of phenomena occur."

"When this harmony is deranged, in order to reestablish it, we should endeavor to increase the vital activity of those organs whose functions have a relation to that order of phenomena whose manifestation is decreased or weakened."

Hence the physician has under his control three sets of therapeutic means, viz.: Chemical agencies, — medicine, food, drink, respiration, temperature, &c. 2d. Mechanical and

physical agencies — directing the various movements, general, regional or atomic, and especially the movements promoting activity, development and health, according to the anatomical, physiological and pathological condition of the whole system, or any of its parts, as the case may require. 3d. Dynamical agencies — the physician should also control the mental influences that surround the patient.

The means employed by Ling and his followers are too numerous and various to be dwelt on in this communication; indeed, it would be very difficult to describe a "movement," without ocular demonstration, sufficiently explicit to convey a definite idea. In general, they are divided into *active* — the result of the patient's own volition; *passive*, in which he exerts no control of the movements, but is entirely acted upon; and *duplicated*; — duplicated concentric, in which the patient moves in a prescribed manner, while the operator greatly intensifies the functional act by offering resistance according to the contractile capacity of the patient; duplicated excentric, in which the patient offers resistance to movements made by the operator; thus, while the designated muscle essays to contract, the approach of the ends is gradually overcome — a mutual understanding existing between the parties — and the muscle is gently drawn out. This is the most powerful, and, by its causing an increased accumulation of arterial blood in the part, it is also called new formative.

Among passive movements and appliances are the ligature, pressures on parts to cause absorption, various pressures on large or small venous trunks, and on nerves and their fibres and loops; vibration, percussion, kneading, stroking, friction, &c. All movements are propagated from without, inwards.

To say that these simple appliances do not have any marked influence upon the general health would be to ignore occurrences of daily observation. "Did a blow only injure the parts on which it fell, the leg or arm for instance, how could people faint, or even die, as they sometimes do, from such frequently-recurring accidents?" It is not what, or how much, the physician does, that makes him master of his profession, but *what he does right*, be it, seemingly, ever so insignificant. But there is absolutely nothing that we can do for our patients' well-being that is not of the greatest importance to him.

350 Sixth Avenue, New York.

[Communicated to the Medical World.]

BELLADONNA.

To the Editor of the Medical World:

DEAR SIR: — Since the first appearance of the Medical World I concluded to become an occasional correspondent, if of course accepted. Many circumstances, aside of a certain listlessness for writing, have, so far, prevented me from the attempt. To overcome this peculiarity gradually, I must, at first, make an economical use of ink, and begin, therefore, with a few remarks on the present topic, "Belladonna" as a prophylactic and specific remedy against scarlet fever.

So much has been written of late on this subject that it is rather difficult to give anything new, if we do not enter largely into the history of Belladonna.

Views have, however, been expressed in relation to its prophylactic powers which by no means, being settled, can bear a slight handling.

One gentleman, in No. 13 of the Medical World, attributes infallible prophylactic power to Belladonna against scarlet fever: he even never saw an instance of scarlet fever appearing where he had administered it as a preventive. This may all be so; still, an individual experience does not prove its infallibility, and many observations to the contrary are also known. I think the matter important enough to have the form of applications and doses stated, to secure this prophylactic effect. For one I deny the *absolute* preventive power of Belladonna, against scarlet fever, and I am convinced that reliable evidence of its prophylactic efficacy can only be expected by giving it strong enough to produce a "Belladonnian Infusion." Form and dose will naturally depend on the strength of the epidemic, degree of exposure, susceptibility, and constitutional tendency of the individual. The epidemic miasma would so meet a prepared antagonist, and should even the latter be overpowered, the former would be harmed in its onslaught, its ravageous tendencies checked, and compelled to terminate its course in a more peaceful manner. If but this result can be obtained, the application of Belladonna, when scarlet fever is raging, ought to be recommended to every person exposed and predisposed to the disease.

Another writer in No. 14, seems to be anxious to have it understood that the use of Belladonna, as a preventive, was by no means

confined to the Homœopathists. Of such an assertion from our side, I was not aware. The Homœopathists only claimed the right of discovery by Hahnemann, and insist on the acknowledgment of that fact, in the incorporation of Belladonna as a prophylactic and curative remedy into the allopathic materia medica. The latter has been done, but the former only exceptionally.

It would be interesting to hear where Dr. Porcher got his information from. As I did not read those twenty-eight pages, I do not know whether he has ever mentioned Hahnemann's name. The best popular article on Belladonna which I have seen of late, appeared in the *Boston Traveller* of January 1st; and, queer enough, the gentleman did not even give his name nor residence.

Apropos. Another correspondent in No. 14 of the *Medical World* wishes to have given him as good a remedy for nursing sore nipples as his pork and sulphur ointment is against scald head. We have it! If he will only try a watery solution of arnica tincture, externally applied after nursing, and the nipples are kept in order before permitting the child to nurse, he will find a seldom-failing specific. But it must be handled carefully, as it smells strongly of Homœopathy.

With due regard, yours, A. B.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

MEDICAL TRAVELS AT HOME.

Messrs. Editors:—This ancient section of the Union has become tame and systematic in medical matters. Physicians are so exceedingly numerous in the cities, that a stranger marvels within himself, in turning corners, at the multitude set apart for the profession. Do they all become distinguished, and are they all accumulating fortunes by practice?

These mental questions will obtrude, and, since I cannot answer them myself, has any one the moral courage to do it for me?

But an extensive exploration to and over the far-off West, where the tide of emigration, unemployed talent and wealth, are rapidly concentrating, to say nothing of the centralization of political strength for coming times, authorizes me to speak quite decidedly of all that part of the world. You may be surprised at the positive character of the declaration that the West is actually overrun with physicians. They cannot support any more, and certain it is, the people do not, nor can they properly, support one quarter of those already making an effort for practice.

In all the thriving towns and settlements in Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska, for example, and those are the particular territories where the rush is made,—there are more medical men than patients. One or two invariably monopolize all the business worth having;—but even the most celebrated of them are poorly compensated, and the prospect is not bettering. This grows out of the fact that the profession is over done; there are too many for the population.

With this gloomy prospect before them, what are the young physicians to do? A very natural question. Become farmers. It is a noble employment, conducive alike to health and wealth.

The fancy physicians that pass away life elegantly, in walking the streets at pleasant hours of the day, twirling a gold-mounted rattan, could neither be tolerated or patronized out West. They will succeed better under the parental roof, if they succeed at all.

Expenses are by no means so very light as to be merely nothing at all at the West. It is absolutely necessary to keep a horse, if it is the purpose of the physician to attend to calls. Rides of twenty, thirty, and sometimes forty miles, are required; but the fees bear no kind of proportion to the expense that must be incurred to be in readiness to meet such demands,—if the individual resides in any of the developing cities.

St. Paul is becoming overrun with the faculty. It is a problem how they can have a living by the exercise of their professional abilities. Five dollars a week is the cost of keeping a horse, and it will soon be more. An office rent, any way suitable for a physician, would not be much if any less than one hundred and seventy-five dollars a year—over a store perhaps. Wood costs always five dollars a cord, and this winter is worth nine. A keener cold is hardly experienced this side of the arctic circle—which makes the fuel disappear at a mysterious rate. No coal exists in the territory, nor is it carried there—nor can it be for general consumption, till railroads are constructed. Board without lodgings, simply meals at a hotel, would be from eight to ten dollars a week; and at a first class boarding house six. Then incidental expenses beyond enumeration are constantly presenting,—so that a man cannot exist in that new city any more economically than in New York or Boston. All this is predicated upon the presumption that the enterprising young physician is single; if he has a family, the difficulties would be apparent, were he without property—

Bills could not remain unpaid under those circumstances.

Thus much for the principal point of attraction in that direction, in Minnesota. There are an immense number of small settlements rapidly springing up, and large towns too; but they are over-stocked with physicians. Like Noah's dove, not finding a place to plant the sole of my foot, I have returned back to the ark, hoping, as did Mr. Micawber, "that something will turn up."

Do you think your increasing circle of readers would be gratified with further expositions in regard to future medical prospects at the West? If so, another communication will be at your service at my earliest convenience.

Allow me to express the pleasure we derive from the spirited, pleasant, and agreeable collection of papers which make their appearance every eight days in the Medical World.

W.——, M. D.

New York Hospital, Jan. 10th, 1857.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

LAWS OF HEALTH.—Messrs. Jewett & Co., of Boston, have published a neatly constructed volume of four hundred and twenty-four pages, large size duodecimo, bearing this title, viz., *The Laws of Health, or Sequel to "The House I Live In."* By William A. Alcott, M. D.

A question might be proposed thus: Who of all the authors—and health has been a favorite subject—has explained the laws of health most satisfactorily?

Hygiene and hygienic laws have become stale with some very well-disposed people. Still, there are many who inquiringly ask whether we are any the less liable to the inroads of disease, or have a longer lease of life, through the instrumentality of this class of writers?

Undoubtedly the sanitary circumstances of a dense population are vastly improved in cities by the discoveries of those learned men who have expounded the principles of health. It would be quite extraordinary if no improvements had followed the suggestions of hygienic philosophers. Cities, towns, territories and states, have been essentially benefited by enforcing a system of drainage, removing vegetable accumulations, furnishing pure water, &c.; while individuals are the gainers quite beyond the cognizance of the masses of unreflecting human beings, and even the thought

of those who derive the most direct advantage from a strict observance of the general laws which regulate the public health.

This modest work was designed especially for families and schools; but it teaches in the plainest language what is required also in all public institutions, as well as at home, to preserve the body and develop the mind. In colleges, especially, it would be useful in the hands of the students, because it abounds with wise applications of laws, the observance of which medical men agree in assuring us is necessary for securing our physical, moral and intellectual well-being.

No mysteries are solved, no new rules are laid down, superior to the teachings of those who preceded the author in the same great field of inquiry. But as far as possible he has collected the results of the researches of his predecessors, simplified propositions, and in a pleasant, orderly manner, treats each topic under consideration or discussion with marked ability.

There are ten chapters, subdivided into sections. Growth and renovation; muscular motion; rest and sleep; digestion and nutrition; circulation of the blood; breathing and ventilation; the laws of the skin and cleanliness; temperance and clothing; the brain and nerves; and, lastly, the senses. These present an immense array of subjects, which are carefully examined by all the light which anatomy and physiology provides, combined with the opinions and advice of the best professional authority, with a view to furnishing a reliable guide to health.

Let those who delight in destroying what they have neither the genius or learning to reconstruct, examine these laws of health with a critic's microscope, and give us the result of their fault-finding, if they have no commendations to bestow.

Physicians will not be purchasers to any extent of this valuable production; and that will be no disappointment, since it was not designed for them. If read by those for whom it was expressly prepared—those who know literally nothing about their own organization and the derangements to which the complicated machinery of their bodies is exposed—the author will have the thanks and benedictions of all who are influenced by his excellent directions for obeying the laws of health at home, to preserve the body and develop the mind.

NEW BOOKS.

According to the American Publishers' Circular, an admirable periodical which all literary men ought to encourage by a subscription, there are not many new medical publications in preparation. We look over the columns of that excellent forerunner of what is to come in the way of new works, however, with much pleasure. The last number in December did not announce a solitary new book for the profession. Dull times, indeed, for medical science and medical literature.

Messrs. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, have in press, *Indigenous Races of the Earth, or New Chapters of Ethnological Inquiry*; also, *Climatology of the United States*.

A new periodical, called *American Druggist Circular and Chemical Gazette*, has been commenced in New York, by Messrs. Bridge-man & Co., 158 Grand street. It is to be issued monthly. All druggists and apothecaries should encourage the enterprise. It is a credit to the editor.

Report indicates the progress of several medical treatises, in a state of forwardness,—the titles of which have not yet been made public.

FLOATING FACTS.

[Presuming these weekly columns of Floating Facts few be useful to those collecting materials for publications at a future period on physiological subjects,—medicine, surgery, chemistry, midwifery, and other branches of knowledge which belong to a course of professional reading,—we have adopted this plan of furnishing important matter in the fewest words.

In preparing lectures, writing communications for journals, either literary or scientific, an immense amount of matter for strengthening an argument, illustrating propositions, and giving an interest to a variety of topics within the legitimate range of medical studies, may be found in these paragraphs. They are useful for reference, and are certainly more or less instructive, independent of the pleasure derived from the facts they present. We therefore propose to continue this particular feature of THE MEDICAL WORLD, till a majority of its patrons request an alteration.]

National Care of Serpents.—A recently written history of the kingdom of Dehomi, in Western Africa, has the following statement:

A house in the middle of the town is provided for the exclusive use of these reptiles, and they may be seen here at any time in very great numbers. They are fed, and more care is taken of them than of the human inhabitants

of the place. If they are seen straying away they must be brought back; and at the sight of them the people prostrate themselves on the ground, and do them all possible reverence. To kill or injure one of them is to incur the penalty of death. On certain occasions they are taken out by the doctors, and paraded about the streets, the bearers allowing them to coil themselves around their arms, necks, and bodies. They are also employed to detect persons who have been guilty of witchcraft. If, in the hands of the priest, they bite the suspected person, it is sure evidence of his guilt, and no doubt the serpent is trained to do the will of his keeper in all such cases.

Suspended Animation.—A young married woman of Collair, near Lyons, France, after being ill for some time, fell one day into a complete state of insensibility, and was supposed to be dead. A medical man was called in, who gave a certificate of the death, and the young woman was laid out and in due time fastened up in a coffin. In the night some women who were sitting up to watch the deceased, heard subdued groans and sighs in the coffin. They fled in dismay, and the neighbors, on hearing their account of the matter, proposed to have the coffin opened, but the husband of the woman would not hear of such a thing, as it would be, he said, a profanation of the dead. The mother of the young woman, however, broke open the coffin with a hatchet, and it then turned out that the young woman was not dead, but had only been in a lethargy. Medical assistance was procured for her, and in a short time she recovered perfect consciousness.

A Fact for the Spiritualists.—Damascius says expressly, that in a battle, fought near Rome, with the Scythians, commanded by Attila, in the time of Valentinian [the third,] who succeeded Honorius (in the year 425,) the slaughter on both sides was so great that none on either side escaped, except the generals, and a few of their attendants; and, what is very strange, he says, when the bodies were fallen, the souls still stood upright, and continued fighting three whole days and nights, nothing inferior to living men, either for the activity of their hands or the fierceness of their minds. The images of the souls, therefore, were both seen and heard, fighting together, and clashing with their armor. He, moreover, endeavors to confirm the truth of this by other relations of a like kind.

New York Academy of Medicine.—From the Daily Times the following is taken:—

At the last meeting, the report of the Secretary stated that thirty-four members had been added during the year, and one had died—that there had been unusual interest in the Academy, manifested by a larger attendance of the members, more papers, &c., than any previous year. The Finance Committee reported the annual tax of \$3.00 for the ensuing year, which was adopted. The Trustees reported the sum invested for a building fund to be about \$8000. The Treasurer reported that the yearly expense was more than \$900, and that about \$70 only now remained in his hands.

The foreign and domestic Corresponding Secretaries made their reports.

The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year:—

For President—Dr. VALENTINE MOTT.

For Vice-Presidents—Drs. J. R. Wood, Beadle, Barker, and Wilson.

For Recording Secretary—Dr. C. F. Heywood.

For Assistant Secretary—Dr. F. U. Johnston, Jr.

For Domestic Corresponding Secretary—Dr. Hubbard.

For Foreign Corresponding Secretary—Dr. J. W. Green.

For Treasurer—Dr. J. O. Pond.

For Librarian—Dr. T. F. Cook.

For Trustees.—Drs. Kissam, Blakeman, Anderson, Griscom, S. P. White, Carter, and Ogden.

For Orator—Dr. J. Marion Sims.

Conflagration of Louisville Medical College.—The Medical Department of the University of Louisville, including the library, laboratory and museum, was destroyed by fire on the 31st ult. The loss is estimated at \$100,000, with insurance for \$50,000. The building in which the "Old Medical School" was held, was donated by the city for this purpose in 1839, and since that time the Trustees and Professors of the Institution have been constantly adding to its usefulness and interest, by appropriations from their personal profits, for books, apparatus and medical curiosities, Professors SILLIMAN, GROSS, and FLINT, having each, at different times, visited Europe for the purpose of procuring for the institution instruments and books. Its library of French works, relating to the various branches of the profession, was probably the most complete

in the Union. Some books, a few retorts, and jugs of acid, and a desk or two were all that was saved of the contents of this interesting and useful institution. In one hour all was destroyed. There were between two and three hundred students attending the lectures, some of whom will probably leave, or attach themselves to the "new school," but a majority of them will remain to the conclusion of the session, as the lectures will be resumed in a day or two.

An Aged Fisherman.—There died at Omeath, Ireland, recently a man named Patrick Morgan, at the extraordinary age of 120 years. Morgan's occupation was that of a fisherman, and besides he rented a small farm. His frame was hale, and his faculties were vigorous nearly to the last.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. Carl Schertzer, in company with Dr. Shapner, both Austrians who have travelled extensively in this country under the auspices of the Academy of Vienna, have also visited the British Possessions, and finally, Mexico and Central America, and made thorough explorations. Dr. S. is a scientific and learned man, with prepossessing person and agreeable manners, great energy of character, speaking fluently English, French, and other modern languages. His travels and investigations have been, or are about to be, published in Vienna; and as they must possess much in formation of interest and importance to American readers, it is hoped they may be republished in this country.

Copies of the revised By-Laws of the Medical Society of Massachusetts are being distributed among the fellows over the Commonwealth. A principle feature is the formation of a Board of Commissioners on trials. The President has the authority to appoint five members to act in that capacity, who are to hear and decide in regard to accusations against their brethren. Their compensation is to be three dollars a day and necessary expenses. A fine of ten dollars is the penalty for refusing to attend as a Commissioner without a satisfactory excuse.

Dr. Samuel Thresher Lyons, who has been figuring largely in New York, as a fashionable

man, was sentenced to death in London, for crime, but by the intercession of friends, the death penalty was commuted to transportation to Australia for life. He escaped from thence to the late theatre of his extraordinary exploits.

Dr. Winslow Lewis, of Boston, late Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, on a recent public Masonic occasion, spoke of the number of physicians holding official positions, who belonged to the fraternity. In the United States, the medical profession is represented by thousands, in the ranks of that ancient and honorable institution.

Scarlet fever is generally subsiding in those places where it has assumed an epidemic character. The question in regard to the prophylactic virtues of belladonna in that disease, is still under discussion among its friends and foes.

A physician in New York claims to have discovered Nature's secret by which the gender of the future human being is determined. Dr. Darwin, author of the *Zoonomia*, imagined that he had solved the same difficult problem, but there is an immense difference between a fact and a hypothesis.

The Medical Independent and Monthly Review of Medicine and Surgery, published at Detroit, has a continuation, in the December number, of an interesting and instructive subject by the senior editor, Henry Goadby, M. D., *On the links connecting the Vegetable and Animal kingdoms*. That one article is worth more than the cost of the journal for a year. With such facts as the author there presents, the naturalist and the physiologist should commence their studies.

We beg again to recommend the purchase of the volumes of Transactions published by the American Medical Association, to all medical gentlemen who read this paragraph. They may be had by addressing Dr. Caspar Wister, 479 Arch street, Philadelphia.

According to the Worcester Medical Journal, the Worcester Medical Institution will "hold the next session of medical lectures in the City of Boston." The lectures are to commence in Chapman Hall, on the first Thursday in March, 1857.

In Italy there are seventeen journals devoted to surgery and medicine. They are not very original. Most of the articles are heavy. Genius has no opportunity for expansion in modern Italy, it is so closely watched by the different governments. Even medical and surgical writings must be under the surveillance of the police of the press.

Sir Humphrey Davy said that the greatest discovery he had ever made was when he discovered Michael Faraday—who became his successor at the Royal Institution, and the first chemical philosopher on the globe.

Mrs. Pope, of Worcester County, Mass., has recently entered upon her one hundred and third year, in fine health and spirits.

Dr. Cragin, the American Consul at Paramaribo, Surinam, who has been in extensive practice there for many years, and who is a native of New Hampshire, proposes to return home. He has contributed largely to Natural History Cabinets, from that land of strange reptiles, stranger fish and plants.

A Literary and Scientific Society of Vienna has lately proposed a prize for the best essay in answer to the following question:—"What are the causes that render suicide so prevalent in modern times, and what are the best remedies against this evil?"

Dr. Wycherly, a medical practitioner, is Mayor of Cork.

Noyes Wheeler, known over the whole country as a lecturer on Phrenology and Spiritualism, was carried before the Police Court in New York, on a charge of insanity, but the Judge found him quite as sane as scores of people who are enthusiastically devoted to all the fanatical isms now epidemic in the New England States, and therefore let him go.

Dr. Bauer, of the Brooklyn, N. Y., Orthopædic Institute, has been visiting the medical institutions in some parts of the West.

Dr. Daniel Ayres' contributions to practical surgery, reprinted from the New York Journal of Medicine, with two strongly marked drawings, illustrative of a case of dislocation of the cervical vertebræ before and after the reduction, add very much to the interest of the article. Dr. Ayres is a man of industry and energy. That is the way to have one's skill known: publish the results of successful practice.

The next meeting of the Suffolk District Medical Society will be fully attended, it is predicted. Mem.—A supper is to be served, for the first time. If the policy of having a closing entertainment had been inaugurated earlier, a full attendance would have followed.

In the catalogue of registered Americans in Paris, recently published, there was but one physician. A large number are abroad from the United States, and it is presumed they are now residing and travelling in Italy, to be out of the reach of the severe weather of France the present winter.

Dr. Joseph Le Conte, of the University of Georgia, has been invited to fill the Chair of Natural Science in the South Carolina College, made vacant by the resignation of Professor Brumby.

Government built nineteen marine hospitals in 1856, and ten more are now in the process of construction.

There were 10,063 seamen admitted into thirty-three marine hospitals belonging to the United States, in 1856, which cost the government, for board and nursing, \$246,075.38. The medical attendance was \$33,902.02; medicines, \$15,097.91; funeral expenses of those who died, \$4,238.50; and the total expense of those institutions, including various incidental expenses, for twelve months, was \$310,169.81. Out of the 10,063 who entered, 10,223 were relieved, and only 577 died within that period.

Towards defraying the expenses of the poor sailor when sick, twenty cents a month is collected at the custom-houses, out of his wages. To the disgrace of a Christian nation, this rich government actually took from poor Jack in 1856, the sum of \$153,946.65.

Several medical journals in different parts of this country have been discontinued, says report, and some have lost their identity by being united to others, which were better patronized.

Scarlet fever, having generally subsided where it was most active and fatal a few weeks ago, has been succeeded by hooping-cough.

It cost the government the last fiscal year for the support and equipment of the naval hospitals, which institutions are wholly distinct from marine hospitals, the sum of \$40,142.41.

A subscription paper has recently been handed about in Boston for raising a sum of money for Dr. Morton, who will be remembered in connection with rival claims in regard to the Ether discovery. It was headed by the sum of *one thousand dollars*, by a Boston merchant.

Only four new works having an interest for the medical profession have appeared in England within the last few weeks, which are as follows, viz.: Domestic Management of Children, in Sickness and Health, illustrated by numerous engravings; by W. Johnson, M. D.; Constitutional Treatment of Female Diseases; by Edward Risby, M. D.; Obstetric Aphorisms for the use of Students commencing Midwifery Practice; by T. G. Swasey, M. D.; and on Poisoning by Strychnia, &c.; by Alfred S. Taylor, M. D.

An Electic Medical College is established in Philadelphia, at which the annual course of lectures will commence on the 18th of February.

Medical Spiritualists seem to be on the increase. How can rational people submit to such gross impositions, dismiss respectable physicians, and take the advice of these impostors?

A Dr. Biegler, of Rochester, N. Y., has been arrested, charged with murder, in causing the death of Julia Rosendale. He came from Albany to Rochester some fifteen years ago—acquired a large practice—married a respectable young lady, who afterwards obtained a divorce—was convicted of arson—sent to Auburn prison, where he served out his sentence—returned to Rochester, where he again acquired a very extensive practice, and is likely again to be sent back to his old quarters at Auburn.

The City Councils of New Orleans, Jefferson City, and Carrollton, in Louisiana, have recently taken under consideration the project of draining the immense swamp-lands lying between New Orleans and Lake Ponchartrain, and are devising the best means of carrying the plan into effect. Aside from the enhanced value of these now almost waste lands, which could be made to be worth millions, it is thought that the thorough drainage of the swamps would be the greatest sanitary measure for the city that could be adopted.

The citizens of Northampton are taking measures for the erection of a monument to the memory of Sylvester Graham. He was the great apostle of dietetic isms. Salt butter, meats, tea, coffee, and various other articles of diet, held in almost universal esteem by all civilized people, were excluded from his vegetarian catalogue of food proper for man.

Mrs. Slifer, of Maryland, who has been dropsical a long time, recently submitted to the operation of tapping. The quantity of water drawn from her amounted to eleven gallons—the water weighed ten pounds to the gallon, amounting in all to one hundred and ten pounds. The operation was performed without the least possible pain to the patient.

The small pox is prevailing to an alarming extent in Stowe, Vt., and all public gatherings are forbidden, and the schools are stopped: pest houses have been provided.

The papers are circulating the intelligence that his honor, the Mayor of Newport, Ky., was greeted with three daughters at one birth on Christmas night.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, JANUARY 14, 1857.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS.—

In Philadelphia there are nine medical schools and colleges of various kinds. Some of them are venerable: while others are comparatively young. Each, however, has its peculiar merits. There are upwards of fifteen hundred students in attendance at the present time. Nearly every State in the Union has its representatives, while the South and West contribute their hundreds.

The Pennsylvanians understand human nature far better than some of their neighbors. If ten more medical schools were chartered by the legislature of Pennsylvania, and located in the same city where nine are already in operation, there would be three thousand students. On the other hand, extinguish all but one, and however brilliant the faculty, or distinguished for their special scientific attainments, they could not command one hundred and fifty students.

Precisely the same policy which has built up Philadelphia as the great medical and surgical focus of the United States, made London and Paris the medical and surgical centres of Great Britain and France.

New York begins to comprehend this doctrine of liberality. By abandoning the old exclusive, selfish practice of their predecessors, — who thought the only way of securing fame and fortune for themselves and their posterity, was to war perpetually against those who suggested the idea of a second institution for medical instruction, whether like their own, or differing from it, — the rising influence of the medical colleges of the Commercial Emporium has become a fixed fact.

By legalizing a second college, an immense impulse was given to the suspended animation of the profession. Men who had been kept out of sight by an oppressive system of dog-in-the-manger management, started into position. Their talents were at once appreciated. New surgical operators and lecturers, who were ciphers before, gave the lead, and the old fossil remains, who fully intended to control every ambitious aspiration of those who were looking up to them for crumbs that fell from their master's table, were either obliged to bestir themselves to save what they had, or step aside when the wheels of the modern car of science came rolling by.

If the medical profession of New York will permit the multiplication of schools of medicine, and imitate precisely the doings of their brethren in Philadelphia, such are their local advantages and accessibility by sea and land, they will inevitably centralize and draw away students from the South, West and North. If, on the contrary, the narrow view which influenced their official predecessors, who had the loaves and fishes

all to themselves, prevail, a succeeding generation will certainly accomplish for the interest of medicine what the merchants of New York are doing for that city to give it universal commercial renown.

Were Boston to take advantage of this well-known principle, it might be made the unrivalled medical centre of the North. All the New England States, the Canadas, and other British possessions would contribute to the support of half a dozen well-conducted, judiciously-officered medical institutions. Under such circumstances, we should not have the mortification of reading upon the catalogues of the schools of Albany, New York and Philadelphia, the names of those who actually pass through Boston, rather than remain where the lectures, the hospital privileges and course of instruction, cannot be more thorough, complete and elevated in all respects, in America.

But there are those who cling with a death-struggle tenacity to the obsolete doctrine, that monopoly is certain, and liberality of sentiment disastrous for the stability of public scientific institutions. How many more years may be required to educate the intensely conservative portion of the medical profession to see the value of this great truth, viz., that progress characterizes the age, or whether some of the most obstinate must be trepanned to let in the light, belongs to the records of the future.

Not many years ago a modest embryotic medical school, under the name of the *Boylston*, was favorably contemplated by those who had a hope of its ultimate development into a full-fledged institution, clothed with authority for conferring degrees. Another class of gentlemen discovered in the incipient college, a rival. How it was smothered and its life-blood crushed out, is a problem. Like many other mysterious occurrences, it retired at night, after the labors of the day, but was found dead the next morning.

As an inquest never sat over the remains, to this day the medical public are ignorant of the cause which led to its untimely dissolution.

Had the Boylston Medical School been taken by the hand and encouraged, instead of marshalling remonstrants before a Legislative Committee, — as happens whenever a progressive medical movement of that kind is made in Massachusetts, and particularly in Boston, — the old and the new colleges would have attracted full five hundred students, annually, to the city of Boston. The opportunity was presented for exercising the same determinate influence abroad, that the medical colleges of New York at this moment are exerting throughout the whole of New England, and far beyond, both to the East and to the North.

So totally blind and obstinately short-sighted have we always been in Massachusetts, on this subject, that were a petition presented to the Legislature for a charter for another medical school, or assistance in aid of an institution that might possibly turn up a medical school, by some unforeseen hocus-pocus, it would be manfully opposed, till every man was officially dead in the trenches. Thus our selfish ambition has actu-

ally defeated our own intentions and limited our aspirations.

Let us contemplate a piece of State ingenuity to maintain the possession of an imagined monopoly, out of which the coffers of the Commonwealth were to be kept plethoric till the crack of doom. Matters stood in this wise:—

Vast quantities of tea were formerly brought in cargo to Boston, directly from China. Consequently great tea sales, as they were called, took place from one period to another, which brought merchants from remote cities, as purchasers. This solid traffic of the solid men of Boston, greatly enriched the city and the State; and in fact, all New England participated in the lucrative branch of mercantile enterprise that concentrated the tea trade in this metropolis.

It struck the wiseacres at the State House that it would be a capital idea to tax those sales, and thus secure a snug revenue. To avoid the unjust demand, for which the State gave no equivalent, the merchants ordered their tea vessels to go to New York on their arrival, instead of entering the port of Boston. No representations or importunity of the importers could convince the legislative artists that they were driving away the very life-blood of successful trade; but no relaxation of the decrees was made in their favor. The tea-trade was driven from Boston to New York. When this disastrous, mortifying fact could no longer be denied,—then the tax on auction sales of tea were repealed. It was then too late—the patient was dead, and the merchants of Boston now go to New York to buy tea.

The policy of not allowing new institutions for medical instruction, or any other purpose, to be organized or chartered, results, in another form, like the diversion of the tea trade, to the injury of Boston, to increase the wealth and all-absorbing influence of the emporium of commerce and free institutions, the city of New York. We shall not attempt to conceal our ambition to have Boston the point of medical centralization in the North. The talent, scientific bearing, abundant resources, and natural advantages are here,—and why not retain them?

MOTHERS MOULD THE MAN.—Independently of the phrenological teaching, that men of marked character derive their goodness, greatness or genius exclusively from the maternal source, and not from the paternal, a common opinion that a marked man had a superior mother, is quite general in circles where no pretensions to science exist.

Where both father and son become distinguished, as in the instance of John Adams and John Quincy Adams, it should be recollected they both had mothers of extraordinary mental energy.

Two-thirds of all young men who come to the cities to seek their fortunes, from their poor homes in the country, and who finally own the shipping, reside in palaces, control foreign-commerce, hold the highest

offices in the gift of the people, had mothers worth having.

A thousand incidental circumstances may have been in the way to prevent a development of the true latent powers which many a mother possesses. An imperfect education; straightened condition of her family; early marriage and subsequent demands of a group of young children, in connection with the state of society in which her lot was cast, all may have been unfavorable for an exhibition of the real elements of her mind and character. Still, the concealed power is there, which she transmits to her sons, who, under the strong impulse of necessity in one case, or polished educational discipline in another, make the world conscious they are in it.

The mother of the celebrated Goethe was but eighteen when he was born. She was a lively girl, full of German sentiment, with warm impulses, by no means much troubled with a conscience, exceedingly afraid of her husband, who was near twenty-two years her senior, and seemingly both willing and skilful in the invention of white lies adapted to screen her children from his minute, fidgetty, and rather austere superintendence. She “spoiled” her children on principle, and made no pretension to conduct a systematic training, which she abhorred. She said of herself, in after years, that she could “educate” no child, was quite unfit for it, gave them every wish so long as they laughed and were good, and whipped them if they cried or made wry mouths, without ever looking for any reason why they laughed or cried. Her belief in Providence was warm with German sentiment, and not a little tinged with superstition. She rejoiced greatly when her son published the “Confessions of a Beautiful Soul,” which she loved as a memorial of a lost pietistic friend. Her religion was one of emotion rather than of moral reverence. She was generous and extravagant, and after her husband’s death, seems to have spent capital as well as income. She was passionately fond of the theatre, a taste which she transmitted to her son. Her hearty simplicity of nature made her everywhere loved. Her servants loved and stayed with her to the last. She seems to have had at least as much honor as her son, which, for Germans, was not inconsiderable, and not much more sense of awe. She gave the most detailed orders for her funeral, and even specified the kind of wine and the size of the cracknels with which the mourners were to be regaled, ordering the servants not to put too few raisins into the cakes, as she never could endure that in her life, and it would certainly chafe her in her grave. Having been invited to go to a party on the day she died, she sent for answer, that “Madame Goethe could not come, as she was engaged in dying.” Yet her sensitiveness was so great that she always made it a condition with her servants that they should never repeat to her painful news that they had picked up accidentally, as she wished to hear nothing sad without absolute necessity. And during her son’s dangerous illness at Weimar, in 1805, no one ventured to speak to her of it till it passed, though she affirmed

that she had been conscious all the time of his danger without the heart to mention it. This peculiarity Goethe inherited.

IMPOSITION.—One Williams, an Englishman, the prince of medical impostors, while advertising himself to be a celebrated oculist from London, actually obliged those who consulted him at a hotel in Boston, to first pay one dollar entrance fee at the door! It took admirably, and the crowds of infatuated men and women, with more money than brains, who cheerfully paid the secretary, were satisfied that it was a select kind of practice, and above all vulgar associations! He took large sums in all the Atlantic cities he visited. Such was the enormous demand for his eye-water, that it was actually put up in barrels. He died suddenly, in the full tide of pecuniary success. The executors of the estate expected to realize something handsome from the sale of a large quantity of the magic collyrium remaining on hand. They predicated the expectation on the history of the proprietor's success while living. But it lost its efficacy with the extinction of the vital spark of him who knew how to prescribe it, and if not emptied into the gutters, where it should have been poured by the heirs at law, it may still be in storage, as unavailable property.

A new English adventurer has announced himself in New York, thus:

TRIESEMAR No. 1—Is the remedy of general and local debility, loss of virile power, premature decay, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, &c. Its effects are efficacious in youth, manhood, and old age.

TRIESEMAR No. 2—Completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which copaiva and cubebs have so long been thought an antidote for, the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population.

TRIESEMAR No. 3—Is the great European remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately the English Physician treats with mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove.

TRIESEMAR No. 1, 2 and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and all nauseating qualities. They may lay on the toilet table without their use being detected.

Sold in tin cases at \$3 each, or four cases in one for \$9, which saves \$3; and in \$27 cases, whereby there is a saving of \$9; divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c.

The new transatlantic adventurer must have discovered the national propensity for patronising nostrums.

MEDICAL PERIODICALS.—Without knowing precisely the number of medical periodicals published semi-monthly, monthly, and quarterly, in the United States, we have specimens enough before us to warrant the conclusion, that in no country is there more literary activity than in the profession of the United States. When the fact is recollected that a large part of the contributors to these serials are engaged in the daily practice of a laborious profession, we are the more surprised at the amount of original

matter they find opportunity for preparing. Originality of thought; ingenuity in emergencies; untiring efforts to mitigate sufferings, and save life, characterize the whole fraternity. While doing all this, very many prudently collect the results of their experience, and give to the world the benefit of their discoveries in distinct volumes. When the country takes its place in the catalogue of old nations, some centuries hence, the physicians of those distant times will find in thousands of libraries, the evidences of the industry, philosophical researches and scientific accuracy of the medical men of the present day. One hundred years to come is a long period; but it will pass away, and with it nearly every human being on this continent. At least three generations of surgeons and physicians will be born, educated, perform their circle of duties, and go down to the grave, within that advancing cycle. They will find a vast amount of theoretical speculation; recorded illustrations of the medical character of this age, and unquestionable proof of its professional ability, associated with a sufficient exhibition of radicalism, to show that a spirit of independence pervades the medical ranks, as it does all other associations in the republic. That which will be of the most importance, however, to our distant successors, will be a circumstantial account of the sanitary condition of the great cities; a history of epidemics; the methods of treating diseases, the transactions of societies, and biographical sketches of those who have distinguished themselves in any way to advance the interests of humanity.

England, France, and Germany together, have not as many medical journals as are now printed in this youngest of the family of nations.

HOMŒOPATHIC DISPENSARY IN BOSTON.—On Tuesday last, Dec. 23d, a dispensary of this kind was actually organized in Boston, where homœopathy has been dying out, so long, according to report, that it is the more remarkable to have it assume such formidable evidence of gathering strength. It is ridiculous to pretend it has no friends here, when the fact is undeniable that the system is encouraged, patronized, and bountifully sustained by a very strong representation of the wealth, intelligence, and influence of the city.

The Transcript says:

"We understand it is designed to have this institution in active operation as soon as possible, and the friends of the measure, so large a portion of whom are abundantly able, will not surely allow it to languish for the want of proper pecuniary support."

The trustees elected are as follows:—Jacob Sleeper, Esq., Otis Clapp, Esq., Hon. Alexander H. Rice, George Russell, M. D., S. G. Cheever, George W. Chipman, Orin S. Sanders, M. D., Joseph Story, Esq., John D. Richardson, Esq., Edward Kimball, Rev. James N. Sykes, James Dennie, Jr.

Secretary—I. T. Talbot, M. D.

Treasurer—Charles B. Hall, Esq.

There is another peculiar feature to be noticed in this preparation for prescribing for the poor upon homœopathic principles. The Mayor of the city is actually one of the Board of Trustees!

We neither practise homœopathically, nor understand it; but as chroniclers of medical occurrences, it would be absurd as well as untrue, to declare that it was discountenanced by all respectable people; or assert that homœopathy was on the decline in the city of Boston. No school of practitioners are in the receipt of better incomes from their practice, or receive the patronage of persons of higher distinction in regard to social position, than these denounced homœopaths.

There are living examples of medical practitioners in Boston and its neighborhood, who had but little or no business, till they embraced this so-called medical heresy, and now, some of these same individuals are almost overwhelmed with profitable business.

All this is quite as astonishing to us, as to other spectators; but the fact is notorious. The people are to blame, if there is anything reprehensible in this course of events, and not the physicians, who adapt themselves to the demands made upon them.

"I was compelled to study the doctrine of homœopathy," said one excellent physician, "or be left alone, like a lone tree on a plain. The sick declared they would be treated homœopathically, and I was therefore compelled to study it, or be without calls; and I conscientiously prefer the new practice, since becoming familiar with its principles."

This is the substance of a casual conversation with a familiar medical acquaintance, who is neither a hypocrite, a turncoat from dishonest motives, nor prone to embrace the extravagant extravagances that characterize New England in these latter days.

But let us keep an eye to the result, and observe how the public pulse beats in this ancient metropolis, in regard to the new institution that has been inaugurated, under the name of *Homœopathic Dispensary*. If patients resort to it for advice and medication; and good, rich, excellent ladies and gentlemen sustain it by their wealth and influence, the most incredulous of the old stock of medical watchmen on the towers can no longer doubt that we are living in an age of professional wonders.

SPINAL DISEASES.—Cannot something be proposed that will meet the approval of medical gentlemen, who object to the mechanical appliances now generally in use?

While one kind of apparatus answers very well in some cases, it is hardly to be expected that all forms of distortion can be remedied by the same contrivances. There is still room for improvement.

There seems of late to be a diversity of opinions in respect to the value of the ordinary mechanical assistance given to the spine in distortions. Some object to it entirely, and speak favorably of training the

muscles by manipulations to support the trunk, as they did before the bones were invaded by disease.

In countries where the refinements of civilization are unknown, spinal deformities are rarely, if ever, seen.

What course could be economically adopted in female seminaries, to prevent the tendency to spinal curvatures? It is a grave question, since the origin is not unfrequently traced to the school-room.

MARRIAGES.

In New-York, I. H. Kinney, Esq., to Miss M., daughter of F. H. Judd, M. D.

DEATHS.

In Williamsburgh, N. Y., Mrs. Catherine, wife of T. W. Stewart, M. D.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRARS OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 3, 1857.

Margaret Kelly 9 days, John F. Marden 3 do., Catharine Colbert 1 do., Ellen M. O'Leary 11 mos., Mary Carroll 13 do., Susan McLaughlin 13 do., Daniel Cronan 8 do., Florence McCarty 2 yrs., Margaret Mc Donnell 3 do., William Weichart 2 do., Mary Quinn 10 do., Wm. Tobin 67 do., Daniel O. Hearn 26 do., David B. Haddon 5 do., Thomas Murphy 3 do., Catharine Walsh 5 do., John Fanneran 15 mos., Sarah E. Buell 2 do., Sophia Hargrave 52 yrs., John Aberdeen 29 do., James Kilcullan 11 do., Wm. Hayes 4 do., Wm. O'Brien 75 do., Lydia A. Rogers 66 do., Daniel E. Powers 81 do., Mary S. S. Killings 6 do., Julia A. Rooney 40 do., Ann Finley 5 mos., Patrick Curry 3 yrs., Bernard Travers 3 days, Elizabeth Ahern 55 yrs., Nancy Goldsbury 54 do., Ann L. T. Smith 27 do., Francis C. Gray 60 do., Thomas H. K. Brown 14 mos., James Doherty 3 yrs., Patrick Biggin 2 do., John Dyson 30 do., Sarah J. Keelan 3 do., C. Frederick Adams, jr., 32 do., Joseph A. Graves 5 do., Mary Powers 55 do., Shipley W. Willson 62 do., Clara V. Brooks 6 do., Catharine Cahill 3 do., Henry Springer 45 do., Wm. E. Dow 44 do., Persis D. Maglathlin 14 mos., Thomas McNancy 8 do., Helen G. Ager 16 do., Mary Walkins 18 do., Joseph Powers 3 days, Mary Regan 1 do., Owen Campbell 4 yrs., Margaret Hickey 70 do., Mary Barron 75 do., George Brady 24 do., Bridget Brennan 72 do., Levi L. Whitcomb 69 do., Hannah Cotter 65 do., Joseph Pierce 37 do., Walter W. Pearce 5 do., Michael Glennan 4 do., William H. Edgeworth 37 do., Margaret Curry 18 mos., John E. Gore 60 yrs., Caroline D. Greenwood 26 yrs., Ellen Gain 14 do., Mary A. T. Comerford 23 do., Arabella D. Clifford 23 do., Hugh J. Hutchinson 19 do., Alice H. Merritt 2 do., Ella G. Kendrick 2 do., James C. Gruber 26 do., Bridget Cusick 70 do., Mary C. Ivers 3 do., Michael Dooley 36 do., Hopestill N. Weeks 50 do., Margaret Gilfeather 80 do., Catharine Sullivan 5 do., John G. Robertson 3 mos., Christina Murphy 11 do., Bridget Dillon 2 yrs., Ellen J. Steel 1 mo.

DISEASES.—Accident 2, consumption 14, convulsions 3, debility 3, dropsy in head 3, diseases infantile 6, scarlet fever 20, disease of heart 3, inflammation of lungs 8, marasmus 3, pleurisy 2, teething 3, tumor 2, other diseases, 1 each, 14; Males 42, Females 44. Total 86. Born in United States 62, Ireland 16, England 2, Scotland 2, other foreign places 2.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

JANUARY 21, 1857.

NUMBER 17.

MEDICAL SCIENCE DURING THE MIDDLE AGES OF GRE- CIAN HISTORY.

BY THOS. L. WRIGHT, M. D.

Depressed state of Medical science after the time of Esculapius and his sons — Medical customs of the Athenians — Freeborn women permitted to practise physic — Practice of midwifery very ancient in Athens — Institutions of Lycurgus — Inimical to the spread of learning — Depressing influence upon the pursuit of the medical art — Their uncharitable and selfish nature — Medicine among the Scythians — Use of Castor as an anti-spasmodic by them — Comparison between the Athenians and Lacedaemonians.

Men of mediocrity of genius are not without influence ; but their influence is exhausted upon their own kind. The influence of the mass of minds is seldom felt by the higher order of intellectual organization. In describing the exploits of an army, historians properly lay particular stress upon the few leading spirits that plan the campaign, and direct the force of the power under them. The names of the private soldiers are never heard. Just so, it is unnecessary to enumerate a list of medical practitioners who followed in the tracks of the illustrious fathers of Grecian medicine ; and who had no plastic or bending influence upon medical science. It may be, that they filled the necessities of their own times, in the profession they practised. But they did no more. Their efforts, and even their existence, conferred no durable reputation upon the medical art ; nor did they add anything useful to it. It is but just that they should pass away with the gliding years of their own generation — if not to be mentioned with reproach, (for they were under no obligations to posterity,) yet to receive no honors.

Before proceeding to consider the state of physic in later periods of Grecian history, and note its real, its splendid achievements, and its exalted position then, it will be proper to notice some of the usual customs and laws regulating the practice of medicine in some of the Grecian States.

It was a law in Athens, that no slave, or woman, should study or practise physic. Subsequently this law was changed, so that all freeborn women had the privilege of learning and practising physic. (Potter's Grec. Ant. p. 144.) The incidents which occurred in causing the modification of the first law into the second, throw some light upon certain of the medical customs of the Athenians. The ancient Athenians, (according to their law,) used none but men midwives ; but the modesty of many women was such that they suffered, and even perished in child-bed, rather than make use of the services of males in their delivery. To obviate this difficulty, a woman named Agonice, disguised herself, and studied physic under Herophilus. After accomplishing herself in that art, she discovered the matter to those of her own sex. Hereupon she was overwhelmed with business. The other physicians, unable to understand so extraordinary and sudden a preference for Agonice, imagined that some improper influences were used by her, and had her cited before the Areopagus as a person who debauched men's wives. To obviate the danger threatened to her, she revealed the secret of her sex. But this exposed her to new dangers. The physicians changed the nature of their complaint, and she was tried for violating the law that forbade women to study or practise physic. However, the matrons of the city, appealing to the Court, not as to judges, but as to husbands, the Athenians repealed the old law, and passed one permitting free women to engage in the medical profession.

The practice of midwifery, therefore, was of very ancient date in Athens, and no doubt in other parts, also, of Greece. The incident related of Agonice proves that it was an important branch of the medical art, and that the dangers arising from the neglect of it were esteemed great.

Lycurgus flourished about nine hundred

years before the Christian era. His laws were well enough calculated to improve the physical health and strength of the Spartans; but they were eminently selfish in their intentions and their results. The perfection of the physical body—the improvement of the animal stock of mankind—was the chief end designed to be attained by the operation of the institutions of Lycurgus. Among the laws of the Spartans were many that were absolutely inimical to the highest developments of the intellect, and more yet that smothered the finer moral sensibilities of the soul.

The Spartans were taught to ensnare by falsehood and deceit, rather than overpower by intellectual strength, or even by sophistical strategy in their treaties with other nations. So little compunction had they to resorting to the broadest falsehood on occasions of public negotiations, that Alcibiades made them the dupe of their own arts, when he was contending against Nicias before the Athenians, upon the affairs of Sicily. Indeed, special instances of extraordinary genius were not common in Sparta: there were no occasions for its display offered there. The dullest and the brightest learned and practised by a kind of *rote*, all the customs and laws and maxims that were permitted to enter into Lacedemonian affairs, either political, religious, or military. A blind devotion to the State—or rather to themselves—made the Lacedemonians the natural enemies of all foreign countries and foreign manners. The sentiments of the Spartans, which, to some, seem to have been the result of a patriotic love of country, were the offspring of the most narrow, selfish, and uncharitable kind of feelings. Generous sentiments were almost unknown in Sparta; and it was seldom that in the hour of success, the Spartans allowed sentiments of pity or humanity to interfere with their selfish policy.

In such a constituted government it may justly be inferred, that polite and humane arts found but little encouragement. If physic ever had any great reputation with the Spartans, it must have soon succumbed to the destructive influence of their uncongenial customs.

Lycurgus is spoken of by Plutarch, as prevailing upon his sister-in-law not to take medicines to facilitate an abortion. The custom instituted by the same lawgiver, of destroying weakly and unpromising infants, betrays either great ignorance and a contempt for medical art, or a settled determination to obviate all trouble about raising sickly children, as well

as to prevent the natural display of tenderness and favoritism which always prevails in the parental breast in relation to feeble or deformed offspring. This, though one of the most amiable traits of human character, might have had a bad influence upon the effect of the course of instruction provided by the Spartan law for youth.

The regulations instituted for hardening infants were such, that none but the most robust and hardy could survive them. They indicate nothing upon which to found an exalted opinion of the wisdom of the Spartans in bringing strength out of weakness. Compared with the other principal States of Greece, the world is but little indebted to Sparta for any of the benefits it now enjoys.

The Scythians had some very wise men among them, but there is no evidence that any of them ever made any remarkable advancement as physicians. It is certain, that in early times no Scythian physician ever exerted any permanent influence upon the character of medical practice, or added any useful knowledge to the science of physic. It may not be uninteresting to mention, however, that in a description of a Scythian notion by Herodotus, (Mel. cix.,) he describes a large lake with a marshy margin, inhabited by otters and beavers, whose testicles, he remarks, were in great estimation as a remedy in hysterical diseases. This is a pretty good evidence of the antiquity of the practice of using Castor as an antispasmodic in nervous complaints.

Before entering upon the history of the rise of the medical sciences in Greece, just before the Persian war, it will not be improper to notice the peculiar character of the Athenians. The levity of that remarkable people was tempered with wisdom; their appreciation was quick, and their intelligence general and versatile. Fond of leisure and recreation, they mingled the pleasures of intellect and reason with those of the senses. They were ever ready to reward wit and eloquence, and even their punishments were inflicted in the midst of fun and frolic. In short, they mingled the beautiful and pleasant with the useful and necessary. They were, especially in the latter days of the republic, the patrons of literature and learning. They rewarded real merit with a lavish liberality—and they were no mean judges of it. The citizens were encouraged to attempt and to dare—for an appreciation of merit was always meted out to it—and even strangers of distinction were encouraged to live and teach among them.

The Lacedemonians, on the contrary, had their sentiments, their course of education, their habits and opinions established and prepared for them centuries before they were born. Their education consisted in habituating the youth to these; and the more servilely they were adopted, the more perfectly finished was the Spartan student. The modern world judges righteously between these two peoples, and the Athenians receive the praise that the benefits the world has derived from their example, and their knowledge, render their due. Even Rome herself, although in the earlier periods of her history she adopted institutions and manners similar to those of the Lacedemonians, never made any remarkable advancement in any enterprises that were not strictly selfish, until she studied the learning of the Athenians. She did not know how beautiful and how good the learning of Athens really was, until she was fast approaching her dissolution.

Except the distinguished physicians already mentioned, who flourished about the time of the Trojan War, there were no physicians but a few in Greece—who followed their footsteps in an imitative way—for several centuries. Egypt and Egyptian learning, however, remained the same, and subject to the same restrictions and peculiarities.

To fully understand the causes which contributed to the final elevation of medical science in Greece, and through it, in the present world, and to give each cause its proper weight, it will be necessary to enter into some historical details relative to the persons and places that had an agency in affecting it.

MARINE HOSPITALS.

Independently of the thirty Marine Hospitals, in the full tide of success, belonging to the government of the United States, referred to in another place, the following new one, are now being constructed. The hospital in California received more patients than any of the others, in the last fiscal single year. New York next, and Massachusetts was the third in that respect. The hospital in Tennessee had the fewest, having had but twelve! and what is remarkably curious in regard to the statistics of that particular institution, all the twelve recovered, and the expense was “*for board and nursing*,” in the books of the government, at Washington, \$1,051.14; while

the money collected from a legitimate source, from the wages of seamen, was \$750.66.

In California, the board and nursing for one year was \$3,874.31. In New York, \$25,676.50, and at Boston, \$23,200.27. For medical attendance in the thirty-three Marine Hospitals, the government paid, the last fiscal year, \$33,902.02. In Maine, where there were but 683 patients, the medical service cost \$2,894.75; in California, \$4,299.98; in Massachusetts, \$1,039.05; in New York, \$1,183.45.

In North Carolina, with 436 patients, the board and nursing cost \$6,476.98, and the medical service \$2,318.70. In Kentucky, there were 225 patients; their board and nursing was \$11,856.54, and the medical attendance \$2,000; medicines, \$634.78. The largest charge for medicine in any of the thirty-three Hospitals was in California; the cost being \$3,167.25; in Louisiana, \$1,661.03; Massachusetts, \$1,192.44, and in New York only \$854.26.

NEW MARINE HOSPITALS CONSTRUCTING.

Portland, Maine.—In September 30, 1856, the marine hospital at Portland, Maine, was reported as almost completed. Since then, notice has been given of its completion, accompanied by a detailed estimate of the amount required to grade and fence the lot, to provide certain necessary fixtures for kitchen, well, stable, and pest-house, amounting in all to the sum of \$15,000.

This building is well constructed, and occupying, as it does, a commanding site, presents a fine appearance.

Total amount of appropriation,	\$80,000.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	60,629.08

Balance available for completing the work,	19,370.92
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Burlington, Vermont.—The work on the building designed for a marine hospital at Burlington, Vt., was commenced on the 28th of July last. The excavation of the main drain, 320 feet in length, much of it in rock, and of the cellar, was mostly completed in August. The foundations of the cellar walls were commenced on the 9th of September, and twenty cubic yards of concrete, with ninety-five cubic yards of stone masonry, were laid during the month. It was expected to get the area wall and the cellar wall finished during the month of October. A large amount of

stone, bricks, and other material are on hand, and the work is generally progressing in a satisfactory manner.

Total amount of appropriation,	\$40,200.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	4,047.52

Balance available for the completion of the work,	36,152.48
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Chelsea, Massachusetts.—At the date of the last annual report, operations had just been commenced on the building designed for a marine hospital at Chelsea, Mass. During the remainder of that season, while the weather permitted, the excavations for the cellar and foundation trenches were completed, most of the cellar walls built, and some material delivered. The delivery of materials continued through the winter, and such carpentry was done as could be in advance of the masonry. In the spring operations were resumed, and have continued uninterruptedly, generally, and in a satisfactory manner. The walls of the building are now up to the required height, the arches nearly all turned, the verandahs being put up, the building covering and inside work progressing. The contractors expect to complete the building within the time specified in their contract, viz., 3d of March, 1857.

The grounds around the hospital are mostly graded, and the material removed used to fill up a large wharf in front of the old marine hospital. The wall enclosing this wharf is nearly completed, and would furnish a good location for a large bonded warehouse. The site for this work, ceded by the Navy Department, was ten acres, but it is suggested that twenty acres is not too much for hospital uses.

Total amount appropriated,	\$150,000.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	109,241.69

Balance available for the completion of the work,	40,758.31
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Wilmington, N. C.—A site for a marine hospital at Wilmington has been selected, subject to the condition that the legislature cede jurisdiction and exempt the lot from taxation. When these additions are complied with, the purchase will be consummated, and, in the meantime, plans will be prepared and conditional contracts made for the erection of the building.

Total amount of appropriation,	\$44,000.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856	46.71

Balance available,	43,953.29
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Mobile, Alabama.—An additional quantity of land adjoining the Mobile marine hospital has been purchased, Congress having appropriated \$6,000 for that purpose.

St. Mark's, Florida.—The amount appropriated by Congress at its last session, in addition to the former appropriation, is sufficient to build the marine hospital at this place. The site has been selected, and plans of the enlarged building will be prepared, and the work contracted for without delay.

Total amount of appropriations,	\$22,000.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	141.64

Balance available,	21,858.36
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Pensacola, Florida.—No site has yet been procured for the marine hospital at Pensacola, property holders of such sites as are deemed eligible holding the land at exorbitant prices. There are no means of carrying out the intention of Congress in this case, unless it be thought proper to select a portion of land at the Barrancas, now in the occupancy of the Navy and War Departments, to be used for a hospital and barracks. The tract is sufficiently large, and is eligibly situated for this purpose, and would have the advantage of the constant presence of naval and army surgeons, and competent nurses, who could attend both establishments at a very small increased expense to the government. Its only inconvenience is its distance from the city, being between eight and nine miles from the wharf. Vessels entering or leaving the harbor pass directly in front of the proposed site.

Total amount of appropriation,	\$25,000.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	181.76

Balance available,	24,818.24
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New Orleans, Louisiana.—After the purchase of a site for the New Orleans marine hospital, plans were prepared and proposals invited for a building, either of bricks or iron. Bids were duly received, and it proved that there was no formal bid offered that came within the amount appropriated. The matter was, in

compliance with the law, reported back to Congress, with an estimate of the amount required. An additional appropriation was made of \$151,659.20, which will be ample to complete the building.

Proposals were again invited for bids for the entire building, to be either of bricks or iron. They were opened on the 26th day of November, and the work will be commenced as soon as practicable. Contracts have, in the meantime, been made for the foundation, which is progressing rapidly.

Total amount of appropriation,	\$436,459.20
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	34,190.93
Balance available,	402,268.27

Galena, Illinois.—A site has been selected for the marine hospital at this place, and as soon as the title is perfected, and jurisdiction, with exemption from taxation, ceded by the State, the work will be put under contract.

Total amount of appropriation, \$40,000.00

Burlington, Iowa.—A site has been purchased for a marine hospital at Burlington, Iowa.

Total amount of appropriation,	\$25,000.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	8,709.20

Balance available for the completion of the work, 16,290.80

Cincinnati, Ohio.—A lot has been selected and purchased as a site for the marine hospital at Cincinnati, Ohio, and contracts awarded for all the construction, except a portion of the iron work and some minor matters. The contractors have commenced work.

Total amount of appropriation,	\$136,000.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	43,785.99

Balance available for the completion of the work, 92,214.01

Evansville, Indiana.—Owing to the death of the contractor, and to low water in the Ohio river, by which the stones for this building are received, the work has suffered considerable delay. No report having been received from the superintendent for the past month, the ex-

act condition of the building is not known, but it is believed to be nearly or quite finished.*

The building is not enclosed, and still lacks several necessary appendages, not called for in the contract, such as cisterns, stable, and carriage-house. An estimate of the amount required to fence and grade the lot, and for all necessary fixtures, accompanies this report.

Total amount of appropriation,	\$47,000.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	33,482.13

Balance available to complete the work, 13,517.87

Detroit, Michigan.—At the date, (says the engineer,) of my last annual report, but little had been done on the marine hospital at Detroit. At the close of that season the basement walls were raised, and the top of the water-table, caps of basement windows and window frames, small area windows and coping, all set. A portion of the drain was finished and filled over. During this season, the building has been raised to the floor of the third story, and the beams of all the stories are set.

Before the commission assembled, the contractors had raised the walls to a considerable height above the point at which they stood when I inspected the work. The work done subsequently to my inspection was doubtless a great improvement upon what had been previously done, and, unfortunately, the commissioners did not tear down to the work in question; and while they agreed upon the imperfections of the construction, they did not deem it necessary to advise that the whole should be taken down. I have no fears that the building will fall down, but it is not built in conformity with the specifications.

Total amount of appropriations,	\$105,500.00
Amount expended to September 30, 1856,	45,937.64

Balance available for the completion of the work, 59,562.36

St. Louis, Missouri.—The St. Louis marine hospital is completed. An appropriation for grading and fencing the lot was made at the last session of Congress, and preparations have been made for its application to these objects.

*Since writing this report the superintendent's return has been received, notifying the department of the completion of the building.

The marine hospitals at *Natchez, Mississippi*; *Vicksburg, Mississippi*; *Napoleon, Arkansas*; *Louisville, Kentucky*; *Paducah, Kentucky*; *Cleveland, Ohio*; *Chicago, Illinois*; and *San Francisco, California*, are completed. Some little work yet remains to be done in fixtures, grading and fencing, at *Natchez, Paducah*, and *Vicksburg*.

NEW APPROPRIATIONS.

The following additional appropriations will be required for the operations of the current year:

For enclosing, grading and draining the lot of land recently purchased to enlarge the site of the marine hospital at Mobile, Alabama, \$5,400.00.

For fencing and grading the site of the marine hospital at Vicksburg, Mississippi, and for supplying the range, hot water apparatus, &c., \$6,500.00.

For fencing and grading the ground of the marine hospital at Portland, Maine, and for introducing water, erecting stables, removing and repairing old buildings for pest-house, putting in kitchen range, &c., \$15,000.00.

For amount due the contractors on the construction of the marine hospital at Vicksburg, Mississippi, \$762.58.

For fencing and grading the site of the marine hospital at Evansville, Indiana, and for erecting stable, supplying water, and other fixtures for the same, \$5,500.00.

For annual repairs of marine hospitals, \$25,000.00.

For annual repairs of custom-houses, \$30,000.00.

PHYSIC AND PHARMACY IN ITALY.

In the Sardinian States, as well as that portion of the country now comprised in the Austrian dominions; although under different jurisdiction, the general principles are so similar that it is needless for our present purpose to make a distinction. The government exercises a direct control and surveillance over the entire medical profession, including Pharmacy. Physicians and surgeons are strictly prohibited from selling medicines. The number of Pharmacians in each town or place is limited, according to the ascertained or supposed wants of the population. This limitation is in theory founded on the numerical ratio of one Pharmacien to 5000, but the Government (or the

"Minister of the Interior") regulates the matter at discretion. In Milan, for example, the population of which is stated to be 175,000, the number of Pharmacians is fifty-two. In Genoa, with a population estimated at 144,000, the number of Pharmacians is twenty-four. Any person desiring to go into business as a Pharmacien must wait until he can meet with an establishment for sale; then the license of the government must be obtained, and this is granted only to those who possess a degree in Pharmacy, obtained at some university recognized by the State in which the party is about to carry on business.

The indiscriminate sale of poisons to the public is strictly prohibited, the order of a medical man being required. In the Austrian Pharmacopœia strong medicines, comprising jalap, colocynth, and many others not coming under the class of poisons, are marked with a dagger (†), and any medicine so distinguished in the Pharmacopœia cannot be legally sold without medical authority. This prohibition is interpreted with some degree of latitude in some towns, half an ounce of laudanum, for example, having been obtained by a simple order written in Latin, but not signed; but in other places the signature of a medical man is required, and a prescription containing strong medicine (†) cannot be prepared a second time without fresh authority from the prescriber.

It is needless at present to describe in detail the particulars of the education, which is regulated by the several universities, subject to such general laws as the Government considers sufficient. We are informed that in the Sicilian States the examination is not difficult, but that it is rather more so in the Austrian dominions. The chief source of anxiety to the student has reference to the chance of meeting with a business for disposal, after he has become possessed of his diploma. When this object is attained, the protective principle comes to his aid, limiting the competition, and regulating his charges on such a scale as to yield him an ample percentage of profit. A printed tariff of the medicines in the Austrian Pharmacopœia is published for the guidance of the profession and the public. No discount is allowed to medical men, but all purchasers must pay the stated price. Variations in price from the fluctuations in the drug market, seldom find their way to the retail tariff, which is usually in force during the circulation of the edition of the Pharmacopœia to which it refers.—*Chem. Gaz.*

CHARACTER AND MANAGEMENT OF INSANE TRANSGRESSORS.

The other class of the criminal insane, whose misdeeds are due solely to their disordered mind, who have neither been tried for, nor convicted of crime, seems, in England, to be included in the same category with the felon, when any general complaints are made of the difficulty and trouble of managing them, and when any plans are proposed for their relief, and it is sometimes the same in this country. In America this class are generally supposed to have borne a good character, and to have been peaceable and acceptable citizens until their minds were deranged, when they were disposed to be violent or otherwise unsafe members of society. But in England they are supposed by some to be loose in their principles, irregular in their habits, and troublesome, and almost criminal, before they committed the overt acts for which they were arrested and confined.

Mr. Ley, the superintendent of the Oxford and Berks Asylum, in his pamphlet, addressed to the secretary of the superintendents of insane asylums, says: "These patients are not criminal, neither are they pauper. This class of prisoners are commonly more vagrant and unsettled in their previous habits. They are of less honest or moral conduct previously to their insanity. They are more accustomed to a life of petty theft, or mischief; to resort to the lowest lodgings, or to be at night in the open air; they are publicly known, not as quiet, orderly persons, under misfortune, but persons of bad habit, example, company and resort. The feeling of degradation in the association with them is not in the lunacy; it is in the known previous character, which is never expected to be converted, by madness, from worse to better. The addition of insanity to previous bad character creates instinctive revolt.

"The legally insane are not necessarily or generally brought to the legal question by the loss of mind, so much as by its perversion. They are of such conduct, that having escaped that amount of insanity which would have insured them the early protection of the county asylum, they are free to mischief by the doubt; they resist control; deny insanity or the justice of their detention; they have haunts ready to receive them; they can still get a living by the vice they practised before they were insane; they yearn for licentious liberty."

In America, however good their character

may have been, however peaceable and acceptable citizens they were before they became insane, yet, on account of their present destructive or injurious propensity, they must be restrained in their liberty for the public security. They are therefore sent at once to a prison and kept there until the courts determine what shall be done with them. This preliminary imprisonment is usually only temporary, yet, even if it be permanent, it has the advantage of separating the patient from his accustomed scenes and associates, and gives him this chance of recovery; but it affords none of the comforts and other alleviating influences that are needed for restoration to health. The prison is even more unfit for this guiltless transgressor of the law than it is for the convict, when deprived of reason. The guilty maniac is at least used to the place, and the discipline that governs it, and to the men that occupy it; but the honest maniac is shocked and excited by the new and offensive scenes and associates that he meets there; he is mortified by his position; he is disturbed by the idle and frivolous visitors, who love to see how the crazy man looks, and hear what strange things he may say—these aggravate his disorder and lessen his hope of recovery.—*Amer. Jour. Insan.*

CANCEROUS GROWTH OF THE KIDNEY.

This enormous growth of the kidney occurred in a boy eight years of age, who was admitted into the Middlesex Hospital about twelve months ago. The history is briefly as follows: The child's abdomen, soon after birth, became larger on the left side than on the right. It continued to increase in size very gradually until six months before his admission into the hospital, but it grew very rapidly afterwards. When he was admitted, the abdomen was much enlarged and crossed by large tortuous veins. The enlargement existed especially on the left side, and was produced by a tumor about eight inches in diameter. The tumor was slightly movable, semi-elastic in some parts, and not painful on being handled. The intestines were felt over the edge of it on the right side. Four months after admission he walked a short distance, but had to be carried back to bed. He occasionally complained of great pain in the abdomen, which increased so much in size that he was soon unable to leave his bed; but he lingered on for months. His appetite was generally good, and his bowels regular;

but he became gradually very thin, and died from exhaustion about ten months after admission.

Post-mortem Examination.—On opening the abdomen, the parietes were found to adhere to the enormous tumor, which filled this cavity. The adhesions were firm, and extended over the greater part of the tumor. The abdominal viscera were much displaced; the liver, spleen, stomach, and greater portion of the intestines, were pushed upwards into the thorax, the lower ribs on both sides being much raised and expanded. The sigmoid flexure of the colon crossed in front of the tumor, and was adherent to it, but there was no obstruction to the passage of fæcal matter. The anterior aspect of the tumor was found to consist of the concave portion of the right kidney, which was enormously enlarged. The pelvis of the kidney was directed forwards and outwards, and measured seven inches in length and five in breadth; but although so much enlarged, it was not much altered in appearance. The ureter was of the natural size, and yielded some clear urine when pressure was made over the distended pelvis. A soft mass, the size of an egg, protruded from the lower part of the pelvis of the kidney, but the renal tissue surrounding the pelvis appeared tolerably sound, and in a vertical direction measured twelve inches. Beyond the limits of the healthy renal tissue the kidney substance seemed converted into a thick fibrous layer, which quite surrounded the growth. The entire growth, when removed, weighed thirty-one pounds, and measured thirty-two inches in circumference transversely, and thirty-six inches in circumference vertically. It was closely covered by peritoneum, and on the anterior and upper part of the tumor were several flattened masses of somewhat rounded outline; but these were easily separated from the main growth, and were, probably, only enlarged glands. On section, about eight pints of a dark, grumous, viscid fluid escaped, containing numerous yellowish, shreddy, sloughing masses. About one-third of the tumor being removed by a vertical cut, made so as to leave the pelvis of the kidney entire, the cut surface presented anteriorly near the pelvis a margin of renal tissue, about one-third of an inch thick, and this could be traced all round the tumor, but gradually became converted into a fibrous layer, the true kidney tissue having quite disappeared four or five inches away from the pelvis. The interior of the tumor presented a soft, gelatinous medul-

lary substance, of a yellowish color, with some patches of semi-transparent material, (but not colloid,) and it was traversed by fibrous bands; some portions were hanging in shreds and sloughs in all directions, but the breaking up seemed furthest advanced at the part most distant from the pelvis, where it had indeed reached the distended fibrous layer which bounded the growth. At the upper part of the tumor, is a protuberance, apparently in the early stage, which presented a semi-transparent, somewhat gelatinous, pale-yellowish medullary appearance, and is evidently of recent origin. The right kidney weighed seven ounces, but exhibited no trace of the disease. The other organs—viz., brain, heart, lungs, liver, &c., were all free from the disease, and tolerably healthy. The microscopic examination of the diseased kidney confirmed our opinions as to the cancerous nature of the growth. The fluid taken from the protuberance at the upper part of the tumor exhibited large cells with several nuclei and nucleoli, candate and spindle-shaped cells, with granular corpuscles and molecular matter.—*Lanc.*

Method for Extracting Voluminous Calculi from the Bladder.—A report was lately read before the Academy of Medicine of Paris, by M. Ségales, on two cases of lithotomy, submitted to that learned society by M. Carathéodory, Surgeon to the Sultan, and Professor of Surgery at the Medical School of Constantinople. The patients were respectively twenty-six and thirty years of age, and were operated upon by Dupuytren's bilateral section. On the forceps being introduced in the first case, the stone was found so large, that the surgeon, greatly embarrassed, resorted to a second vertical incision through the centre of the prostate and the upper half of the sphincter ani. The stone was then removed through this semi-artificial and natural aperture, and the patient made a good recovery. The calculus broke during the extraction, each half being the size of a hen's egg. In the second case the stone was not only large but adherent, probably by means of a cyst, to the parietes of the bladder. The same secondary incision was made as in the first case, the calculus raised with a spatula, and finally removed. The operator had also to remove calcareous concretion from the spot where the stone had been attached. This second patient also recovered perfectly.—*Lanc.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Prepared for The Medical World.)

SCARLET FEVER UNDER HYDRIATIC TREATMENT.

DEAR SIR:— With the impartiality and liberality of a true savant, you have opened the columns of "The Medical World" for communications apt to benefit suffering humanity, from whatever quarter they may come, and you have also invited hydriatic physicians to congregate around your standard, convinced as you are, that the Medical Art does not consist of the doctrines of one school, but that the practising physician has many things to learn beside the knowledge imparted to him by his professors. If I understand you rightly, you expect also persons of education, who are not initiated in the secrets of the profession, to derive instruction from your journal. I hail your enterprise as worthy of yourself, useful to the profession, adapted to the promulgation of truth, and, if the true spirit of the science animate its contributors, as a means of conciliation for the disciples of the different schools. It is time that the old adage, *Medicus medicum odit*, should be made untrue, that presumption and charlatanism should die out, and that peace and kind feeling should be re-established between the children of one common mother, the pupils of one common teacher, which is Nature, and that we should look upon him who understands her voice as a true physician, whether he acquired his knowledge and experience by the same means as we did, or whether he took a different road to the temple of science. Truth and the desire of rendering service to humanity should always guide the pen of a medical writer, not the wish of making capital for himself by his articles; due regard to members of other schools, and a little modesty with regard to his own accomplishments, will prevent him from hurting the feelings of others.

Be assured, dear sir, it is with these feelings that I write my first article for your journal, an article on *the treatment of scarlatina with water*. It grieves me that hundreds and thousands fall victims to that terror of parents, whose lives could be saved, would the profession take the trouble of studying a method of treatment, which is always safe, and answers the indications of almost every form and every degree of the disease, almost always sure to

to effect a cure, to which, however, there is one serious objection, viz., that it was not invented by an M. D.! But whether M. D. or not, Priessnitz was a physician, a true disciple of our best professor, Nature, an acute observer, and an extraordinary man (which cannot be said of every one who looks down upon him). Water cannot cure every disease, but it can cure scarlet fever. I am not presumptuous, I believe, in giving this assertion; for I have treated scarlet fever for upwards of *twenty-one years* in almost every form, and in that long period *lost but one patient*, and him under severe typhoid symptoms, which existed when I first saw him.

When so many die of scarlatina, I would consider it a crime to keep silent. I have been writing a larger article, which will be published in the form of a pamphlet; but as some time may pass before it becomes ready for publication, I offer you an extract from it, containing the most important information on the treatment. I wish you would find room for it in your journal, and hope it will make a few converts, and save a number of lives: the tears which remain unwept will be an ample reward for the writer, and a satisfaction to yourself.

English not being my native tongue, I must beg you to make some allowance to the language and style of my article, the length of which will, I hope, be no objection to its reception.

CHARLES MUNDE, M. D.

Florence Water Cure, Northampton, Mass.
January, 1857.

HYDRIATIC* TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER.

BY CHARLES MUNDE, M. D.

Before giving the description of hydriatic treatment of scarlatina, I shall glance over the different methods which have been recommended by other schools.

1. The *Expletive method* (blood-letting) has been advocated by some of the best authorities, and there cannot be a doubt but that it must have rendered service in many cases of violent reaction. It requires nice discrimination and a great deal of experience, as in any case where it does no good it is apt to do a great deal of harm, by weakening the patient, and thus depriving him of that power which he

*The word "hydriatic" is more correct than "hydro-pathic," and does not give a handle to the opponents of hydrotherapeutics, as the latter does. "Hydrophathy" means "suffering with water."

needs so much in struggling against the enemy invading his system. Besides, the expletive method has found many antagonists of weight. I shall give the opinion of one of them (Dr. Allison), as being also my own: "But experience has equally shown that the expectation entertained by Dr. Armstrong and others, that by early depletion the congestive or malignant form of the disease may be made to assume the more healthy form of inflammation and fever, is hardly ever realized; and in many cases, although the pulse has been full and the eruption florid in the beginning, blood-letting (even local blood-letting) has been followed by a rapid change of the fever to a typhoid type, and manifestly aggravated the danger."

2. The *Antigastric method*, consisting in the use of emetics and purgatives, to which some have added calomel, has been recommended by several eminent physicians. It has been of service in epidemics and individual cases, when the character of the disease was decidedly gastric. To use emetics or purgatives indiscriminately would do much more harm than good; as, for instance, during a congestive condition of the brain, the former, and with inflammatory symptoms of the bowels, the latter, would be almost sure to sacrifice the patient to the method.

3. The *Ammonium carbonicum*, recommended by Peart, has been considered by many as a specific capable of neutralizing the scarlatinous poison, whilst others have used it only as a powerful tonic in torpid cases. Experience has shown that it is not a specific, and that its use as a tonic requires a great deal of care and experience.

4. About the same opinion may be given on *Chloride of Lime*. As a gargle, and taken internally, the aqua chlorina has done good service in malignant scarlatina, especially in putrid cases.

Browne recommends diluted *acetic acid* as a specific against all forms of scarlatina. Experience has not supported his confidence in the infallibility of his remedy.

5. One remedy has made a great deal of noise, and I am sorry to say, more than it deserves, attracted the attention of the profession, which is *Belladonna*. I willingly believe in the assertions of homœopathic physicians, that it has had a good effect in rendering the course of the disease milder, and I also believe that it has acted as a prophylactic against scarlatina in many cases. I can only say that as far as my own experience extends,

I have seen very little or no effect from it. I have restricted myself, it is true, to homeœopathic doses, though not always to high dilutions; to give children larger doses of the belladonna I would not have dared, nor can I recommend any one to attempt it, as the effect of the remedy would be sure to do harm, if it does no good; but from what I have seen in my own practice and that of some other physicians with whom I was familiar, I cannot but advise my readers not to *rely* either on the prophylactic or the curative power of belladonna, but to look out for some safer remedy. In fact, how can we believe in prophylactics and specifics against scarlet fever, if the patients continue to die of it by hundreds?

6. *Mineral acids* have been used with good effect in some epidemics. *Muriatic acid* I have frequently used myself for inflammation of the throat, in connection with hydropathic treatment, and it has relieved the symptoms a great deal. The form in which I have given it is the following:—

Take three ounces of raspberry syrup and fifteen drops of muriatic acid. Rub the acid with two or three tablespoonfuls of the syrup in a porcelain mortar for a minute or two; then add some of the syrup and rub again, and thus continue till the acid is well divided and mixed up with the syrup. Of this mixture give the patient a teaspoonful every hour or two, or oftener, as the symptoms require it.

Another form for a gargle is this:

Take a cup of coarse pearl barley, roast it till it becomes yellow, then boil it with one quart of water for ten minutes; add one teaspoonful of muriatic acid, and four or six tablespoonfuls of honey; mix it well and use it for a gargle, cold. The decoction should be passed through some linen, or a sieve, before the acid and honey are added, to keep back the barley.

The syrup should be used when the tonsils are most inflamed; the gargle for inflammation of the fauces.

Frictions with lard have also been recommended as an almost universal remedy in scarlet fever. I have never tried them; but as several years have passed without the method making any progress, and to judge from several sources which were accessible to me, it appears that in inflammatory cases the lard has rendered the course of the disease milder, but that it is by no means a general remedy to be relied upon.

All these different methods and remedies, and many others, have been and are still used. They may do much good in some epidemics or

some individual cases; they may relieve symptoms; they may save many a patient who would have died without them. But none is reliable in general; none contains a specific to neutralize the morbid poison; none is a reliable prophylactic, such as vaccina against the small-pox; and if single physicians, or whole classes of physicians, assert to the contrary, the fault must lie somewhere, either in their excess of faith in certain authorities which induces them to throw their pia desidoria into the scales, or in a want of cool, impartial observation continued for a sufficient length of time. *The fact is, that neither is a reliable prophylactic, nor has a safe specific been found as yet*; that all is guess and piece work; and that people are taken by scarlet fever and die of it about the same as before those vaunted methods and remedies were discovered.

Beside the above modes of treatment, *cold water* has been extensively used and recommended by reliable authorities. Currie, Pierce, Gregory, Bateman, Von Wedekind, Kolbany, Torrence, Reuss, Von Fröhlichsthal, and others, have treated their scarlet patients with *cold affusions*. Henke, Raimann Fröhlich, Hesse, Steimmig, Gregory, Jr., Schoenlein, Fuchs, and others, have not ventured beyond *cool* and *tepid ablutions*. The former have proved dangerous in some cases, although the general result has been very satisfactory; and the latter, though safer, are not efficient enough in many others. From their not answering all indications, the affusions have been more and more abandoned, and the ablutions, harmless and beneficial as they are, have been very little used. The use of water, though the safest of all remedies, has never become general, owing to the unsystematic, unsafe, or inefficient forms of its application. Fear and prejudice — prejudice fed by the great mass of physicians — have also been obstacles to its promulgation; and the exaggerations of some of its advocates in modern times have scared many who might have become converts to Priessnitz's method, to whose genius and good luck we are indebted for the most important, most harmless, and at the same time the most efficient and most reliable discovery, viz., the *wet-sheet pack*; a remedy which, alone, is worth the whole antiphlogistic, diaphoretic, and, indeed, the whole curative apparatus of the profession in ancient and modern times for any kind of fevers, and especially for eruptive diseases.

Nor did the physicians before Priessnitz's know anything about the use of the *sitz-bath* for torpid affection of the brain in eruptive fevers,

which, in such cases, is the only anchor of safety. In short, water-treatment was, like other methods, an excellent thing for certain symptoms, but not generally and safely applicable in every case; and its application required a good deal of experience and courage, which latter quality, happily, not very many possess when the question is to put a fellow-creature's life at stake.

To appreciate the effects of the wet-sheet pack, one must have seen it used for inflammatory fever, when it acts like a charm, frequently removing all the feverish symptoms, and their cause, in a few hours.

Let me give you its technicalities, and the rationale of its action:

A linen sheet, (linen is a better conductor than cotton,) large enough to wrap the whole person of the patient in it, (not too large, however: if there is no sheet of proper size on hand, it should be doubled at the upper end,) is dipped in water of a temperature answering to the degree of heat and fever, say between fifty and seventy degrees Fahrenheit, and more or less tightly wrung out. The higher the temperature of the body, and the quicker and fuller the pulse, the lower the temperature of the water, and the wetter the sheet. This wet sheet is spread on a blanket previously placed on the mattress of the bed on which the packing is to take place. The patient, wholly undressed, is laid upon it, stretched out in all his length, and his arms close to his thighs, and quickly wrapped up in the sheet, head and all, with the exception of the face; the blanket is thrown over the sheet first on the "packer's" side, folded down about the head and shoulders, so as to make it stick tight to all parts of the body, especially the neck and feet, tucked under the shoulders, side of the trunk, leg and foot; then the opposite side of the blanket is folded and tucked under in the same manner, till the blanket and sheet cover the whole body smoothly and tightly. Then comes a feather-bed, or a comforter doubled up, and packed on and around the patient, so that no heat can escape, or air enter in any part of the pack. If the head be very hot, the sheet may be doubled around it, or a cold wet compress, not too much wrung out, be placed on the forehead, and as far back as practicable, which compress must be changed from time to time, to keep it cool. Thus the patient remains.

The first impression of the cold wet sheet is disagreeable; but no sooner does the blanket cover the sheet than the chill passes away, and usually before the packing is completed the

patient begins to feel more comfortable, and very soon the symptoms of the fever diminish. The pulse becomes softer, slower, the breathing easier, the head cooler, the general irritation is allayed, and frequently the patient shows some inclination to sleep. When the fever and heat are very high, the sheet must be changed on growing hot, as then it would cause the symptoms to increase again, instead of continuing to relieve them. The best way to effect this changing of the sheet is to prepare another blanket and sheet on another bed, to unpack the patient and carry him to the new pack, where the process described above is repeated. Sometimes it is necessary to change again; but seldom more than three sheets are required to produce a perspiration, and relieve the patient for several hours, or—according to the case—permanently. The changing of the sheet may become necessary in fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty to forty minutes, according to the degree of fever and heat. In every new sheet the patient can stay longer; in the last sheet he becomes more quiet than before, usually falls asleep, and awakes in a profuse perspiration, which carries off the alarming symptoms.

A few minutes before the perspiration breaks out the patient becomes slightly irritated, which irritation is removed by the appearance of the sweat. I mention this circumstance to prevent his being taken out just before the perspiration is started. When he becomes restless *during perspiration*, he is taken from his pack and placed in a bathing-tub partly filled with cool or tepid water, (usually of about 70°,) which has been prepared in the meanwhile; there he is washed down from head to foot, water from the bath being constantly thrown over him until he becomes cool. Then he is wrapped in a dry sheet, gently rubbed dry, and either taken back to his bed, or dressed and allowed to walk about the room.

When the fever and heat rise again, the same process is repeated.

The action of the wet-sheet pack is easily accounted for:

According to a well-known physical law, any cold body, whether dead or alive, placed in close contact with a warm body, will abstract from the latter as much heat as necessary to equalize the temperature of both. The transfer of caloric will begin at the place at which the two bodies are nearest to each other. The wet sheet, which touches the patient's body all over the surface, abstracts heat from the latter, till the temperature of the sheet be-

comes equal to that of the body. In proportion as the surface of the body yields heat to the sheet, the parts next to the surface impart heat to the latter, and so forth, till the whole body becomes cooler, whilst the sheet becomes warmer. As the heat imparted to the sheet cannot escape from it, the sheet being closely wrapt up in the blanket and bed, the current of caloric once established towards every part of the surface of the body will still continue; after the temperature of the sheet and the body has become equal, there will be an accumulation of heat around the body, frequently of a higher degree than the latter. To explain this phenomenon, we ought to consider that we have not to do with *two* dead bodies, but with one dead and *one living* body, which constantly creates heat, thus continuously supplying the heat escaping from it to the sheet, and keeping up the current of caloric *and electricity* established towards the surface. There cannot be a doubt that the abstraction of electricity from the feverish organism contributes in a great measure to the relief of the excited nerves of the patient, as well as to the excess of temperature observed around the body in the wet-sheet pack (after the patient has been in it for some time); and that, in general, electricity deserves a closer investigation in the morbid phenomena of the human body than it has found to this day.

The first impression of the wet sheet, as I stated before, is a *disagreeable* one. If it were *agreeable*.—as a warm wet sheet, for instance, would be, which has been occasionally tried (of course without doing any good),—*it would produce no reaction at all, and consequently there would be no relief for, and finally no cure of the patient effected by it.* But the impression of the cold sheet, being powerful, is transferred at once from the peripheral nerves, which receive the shock, to the nervous centres (the spine, cerebellum and brain), and, in fact, to the whole nervous system, and the reaction is almost immediate; the vascular system, participating in it, sends the blood from the larger vessels and the vital part, to the capillaries of the skin; and when, through repeated applications of the sheet, the system is relieved and harmony restored, in a sufficient degree, in and among the different parts of the organism, to enable them to resume their partly impeded functions, a profuse perspiration brings the struggle to a close by removing the morbid matter which caused the fever, whereupon the skin is refreshed and strengthened, and the whole body cooled and

protected from obnoxious atmospheric influences by a cool bath.

I am not aware that a better rationale can be given of the action of other remedies. Any physician can understand that its effect must be at once powerful and safe, and that there is no risk in the wet-sheet pack of the reaction not taking place, as it may be the case in severer applications of cold water without the pack. One objection I have often heard, viz., that the process is very troublesome. But what does trouble signify when the life and health of a fellow-being is at stake? It is true, the physician is frequently compelled to render the services of a bath-attendant, and stay with the patient a good deal longer than in the usual practice; but he gets through sooner, and, if not the patient and his friends, his own conscience will pay him for his exertions and his sacrifice of time.

There is little trouble with small children, who make a fuss only, and become refractory, when the parents or grandmamas, and aunts set an example. When all remain quiet, and treat the whole matter as a matter of necessity, children usually submit to it very patiently, and soon become quiet, should they be excited at the beginning. The fewer words are said, and the quicker and the firmer the physician performs the whole process, the less there is trouble. After having been taught how to do it, the parents or friends of the patient will be able to take the most troublesome part of the business from the physician's hands, who, of course, has no more to do, during an epidemic, than to pack his patients and attend to them in all their baths himself.

Only with spoiled children there is trouble, and commonly more with them than spoiled them. The best course to be taken, then, is to retain only one person for assistance, and to send the rest away till all is over. There are people who *will* be unreasonable; of course it is no use to attempt reasoning with them. I remember the grandmother of a little patient, with whom the pack acted like a miracle, the child being well the very morning, telling me "she would rather see the child die than have her packed again," although she acknowledged that the pack had removed a very severe inflammatory fever in two hours and a half. She would not have objected to a pound of calomel!

Scarlet fever is a disease which cannot be cut short. Any attempt to stop the process of incubation or concoction, which takes place after the contagion has once been received within

the body, or to prevent its being thrown out upon the surface, would destroy the patient's life, the morbid poison *must* come away, and it *must be drawn to the skin as soon as possible*, to prevent its settling in the vital parts, and injuring them. The safest way of assisting Nature in her efforts of eliminating the poison, is to open the way which she points out herself. We know that the sooner and the more completely the eruption makes its appearance, the brighter and the more constant the rash, the less there is danger for the patient, and *vice versa*. Well, there is not a better remedy than the wet-sheet pack to serve the purpose of Nature, i. e., to remove the morbid poison from the inner organs, and draw it to the surface, whilst at the same time it allays the symptoms, improves the condition of the skin for the development of the rash, and relieves the patient, without depriving him of any part of that organic power so indispensable for a cure, and without which the best physician becomes a mere blank. Under the process of wet-sheet packing, the heat invariably abates, the pulse becomes slower and softer, the violence of the symptoms is alleviated, the skin becomes moist, the restlessness and anxiety of the patient give way to a more quiet and comfortable condition; he perspires and falls in a refreshing sleep. Is there any other remedy that has the same general and beneficial effect? I know of none.

Next to its intrinsic value, our method gives the patient the great advantage of enjoying pure fresh air, either in or out of bed, as it keeps the skin and the whole system in such order as to resist the effects of atmospheric influences better than under a weakening process. And every body knows, or, at least, every body ought to know, that a free circulation of fresh air is one of the most important means, in contagious diseases, of preventing the malady from becoming malignant, and of lessening the intensity of the contagion. Although the times are passed, when patients in the heat of fever were almost roasted in their beds, whilst a drink of cooling water was cruelly denied them, the temperature of the sick-room is, in general, still kept too high, and not sufficient care is taken to renew the air as frequently, I ought to say as constantly, as necessary for the benefit of the patient. There is no ventilation; very seldom a window is opened, (especially in the cold season when epidemics of scarlatina are most common,) and commonly the room is crowded with friends of the patient, who devour the good

air which belongs to the patient by right, and leave him their exhalations to breathe instead. There is nothing better able to destroy contagious poisons than oxygen and cold; and if we consider that every human being absorbs every minute a volume of air larger than the bulk of its own body, we must understand how necessary it is to keep people away from the sickroom who are not indispensably necessary to the patient, and to provide for a constant supply of fresh air. But, whatever may be the arrangements for that purpose, the patient should not be exposed to a draught. Stoves and fireplaces are pretty good ventilators for drawing off the air from the room; if you take care not to have too much fire, and to allow a current of pure air to enter at a corresponding place, the top of a window, or a ventilator in the wall opposite the fireplace, there will always be pure air in your sickroom. The air coming from furnaces, which unfortunately have become so general, is good for nothing, especially when taken from the worst place in the house, the cellar or basement. I consider the worst kind of stoves better than the best kind of furnaces; and if the patient is to rely on the latter for his supply of air, he is badly off indeed. Next to an open fire, a common air-tight stove is the best means of warming the room; only take care not to heat it too much, or to exclude the outer air, which is indispensable to supply the air drawn off by the stove for feeding the fire. The temperature of the room should not be much above 65° Fahr.; in no case should it rise above seventy, whilst I do not see the necessity of keeping it below 60°, as some hydropathic physicians advise (p. ex. Reich, who kept the room quite cold and made his scarlet patients walk out in any weather). The patient, in the heat of fever, will think 60° high enough, and rather pleasant; and if others do not like a temperature as low as that, they need not stay. The person necessary for nursing the patient may dress warmly or sit near the fire. Let the sickroom be as large as possible; or open the door and window of another room connected with it. Towards the close of the disease, after desquamation has begun, the temperature of the room may be kept at 70°, as then the fever and heat have subsided and the delicate skin of the patient requires a mild, comfortable temperature.

As the patient should have a constant supply of pure air for his lungs, so he should have also plenty of pure cold water for his stomach, to allay his thirst and assist in diminishing the

heat of fever, and in eliminating the morbid poison from his blood. Though cold, the water for drinking should not be less than 48° or 50° Fahr. Whenever there is ice used for cooling the water, nurses should be very careful not to let it become colder than the temperature just given, except in typhoid cases, when the stimulating effect of icy cold water and ice may prove beneficial.

I have little to say with regard to diet, at least to physicians. During great heat and high fever, the patient should eat little or nothing; but he should drink a good deal. Substantial food must be avoided. When the fever abates, he can take more nourishment, but it should be light. Meat and soup should only be given, when desquamation has fairly begun. Stewed fruit (especially dried apples) will be very agreeable to the patient. In great heat a glass of lemonade may be given occasionally; however, great care must be taken not to spoil the patient's tastes by sweets, or to allow him all sorts of dainties, such as candies, preserves, etc., as it is the habit of fond and weak (I am tempted to say foolish) parents. In torpid cases, some beaten tea, chicken-broth, and even a little wine with water, will raise the reactive powers of the patient. During convalescence, meat may be permitted to such patients as have been accustomed to eat it, and, in general, the patients may be allowed to gradually resume their former diet (provided it was a healthy one), with some restriction in regard to quantity. In general, under water treatment, the digestive organs continuing in a tolerably good state, and the functions in better order, we need not be quite so careful with respect to diet, as if the patient were left to himself or placed under different kinds of other treatment. Let the food be plain, and the patient will scarcely ever eat too much. To stimulate his appetite by constantly asking him whether he would not like to eat this or that, is sheer nonsense; and to satisfy his whims, against our better conviction, is culpable weakness.

From this general outline I shall pass now to the different forms of the disease, and the treatment adapted to them.

Scarlatina simplex, or simple scarlet fever, without inflammation of the throat, is generally so mild in its course that it requires little or no treatment; however, I would not have parents look upon it as "scarcely a disease," as neglect and exposure may bring on bad consequences. If the fever and heat are moderate, the first days an ablution of the body with cool

water (say 70°) twice a day is sufficient. The patient had better be kept in bed, or, if unwilling to stay there, he should be warmly dressed and move about his room, the temperature of which, in this case, should not be below 70° Fahr., and the windows should be shut as long as the patient is out of bed. When the period of efflorescence, or standing out of the rash, is over, packs ought to be given, to extract the poison completely from the system, and prevent any sequels, such as anasarca, &c. Should the rash suddenly disappear before the fifth or sixth day, or should it linger in coming out, a long pack will bring it out and remove all danger. The packs, once begun, should be continued, once a day, during and a few days after desquamation. The patient may go out on the tenth or twelfth day, warmly dressed, after his pack and bath, and walk for half an hour; sitting down or standing still in the open air is not to be permitted. During, and some time after convalescence, the patient should take a cool bath, or a cold ablution every morning, immediately on rising from his bed, and walk after it as soon as he is dressed. In very cold and disagreeable weather, the walk should be taken in the house; but the patient should not sit down before circulation and warmth are restored in every part of his body, especially the feet. If the patient should feel unwell during convalescence, the packs must be resorted to again.

In *scarlatina anginosa*, or *sore throat scarlet fever*, (which is the most common form of the disease,) we have to discriminate, whether 1, the reaction is *mild* (the heat of the body not much above 100° Fahr. and the pulse full, but not above 110 to 120, the pain and swelling of the throat moderate, the brain little or not affected); or 2, *violent* (the heat from 105° to 112°, the pulse from 120 to 150 and more, the inflammation of the throat decided and extensive, the brain very much affected); or 3, *torpid* (little or no heat, the pulse quick and weak, the inflammation of the throat undecided, varying, the rash appearing slowly or not at all, and what appears of a pale, livid color, the patient more or less delirious).

1. The *mild* or *erethic form* of *scarlatina anginosa* requires about the same treatment as *scarlatina simplex*. I would, however, advise a pack and bath per day, through the whole course of the disease, in the afternoon, when the fever begins to rise; and during the period of eruptions, when all the symptoms increase, two and even three packs a day may

be required. This depends on the increasing heat and fever of the patient. Also later, the state of the throat may require a more frequent packing. If the heat and fever increase some time after the pack, in which the patient may stay for an hour or two, the packing must be repeated; and the same is to be done, when the condition of the throat becomes worse. It may be necessary to repeat the packs every three or four hours, for a day or two, especially if the patient cannot be retained in it longer than an hour. If the patient becomes restless soon after having been packed, the heat and fever increasing, the sheet must be changed, as directed above, till the patient becomes quiet and feels more comfortable. When the period of eruption is over, the rash declines, fades, disappears, and the skin begins to peel off, an ablution in the morning of cool water (with which some vinegar *may* be mixed,) and a pack and bath in the afternoon, are quite sufficient, except the throat continue troublesome, when a pack should also be given in the morning. The packs should be continued about a week after desquamation. The patient may safely leave the house in a fortnight. I have frequently had my patients out of doors in ten or twelve days, even in winter. A visit at my establishment of a gentleman a few weeks ago, whom I treated for *scarlatina anginosa* in the city of New York in February, 1851, reminds me of the sensation caused among his friends by our walking out together on the tenth day in a snow storm, to take dinner at an eating-house in Broadway, (where we consumed a partridge and sundry other articles.) Some physicians of my acquaintance told me I was killing the gentleman, to which I replied I would let them know when he was dead. But he never experienced the slightest inconvenience from it; on the contrary, he felt bright and strong on coming home. He has saved, since, the life of one of his nephews by packing him in scarlet fever, after he had almost been given up, whilst two of his sisters died—unpacked!

This going out so early, in bad weather, is by no means part of the treatment. I mention it only to show the curative and protective power of the latter, and I can assure my readers, upon my word and honor, that, though I never kept any of my scarlet patients longer than three weeks in-doors, I have never seen the slightest trouble resulting from my practice.

In *scarlatina anginosa* of any kind, the throat should be covered with a wet compress,

well wrung out and changed as often as it grows hot. It should be well covered to exclude the air. This compress should be large enough to cover the whole throat and part of the chest; it should closely fit to the jaw, and reach as far up as the ear to protect the sub-maxillary and parotid glands.

2. The *violent* or *sthenic* form of scarlatina anginosa becomes dangerous only through the excess of reaction, when the heat is extreme (150° Fahr.) the pulse can scarcely be counted, as it hammers away full and hard in a raging manner, the throat being inflamed and swollen to suffocation, and the patient in a high state of delirium; but it need not frighten the physician or parent acquainted with the use of water. We have the means of subduing that violence without weakening the patient. It is in this form of scarlatina that the greatest errors are committed by physicians unacquainted with the virtues of water, and that our hydropathic method shows itself in all its glory; for where there is an abundance of heat, water cannot only be safely applied, but it is also sure to bring relief. It is in this form of the disease that the cold effusions recommended by Currie and his followers have shown themselves so beneficial, and that the wet sheet, used properly and perseveringly, is almost infallible.

The water for the wet-sheet pack, in this violent form ought to be cold; in summer it should be iced down to 46—48° Fahr. The sheet ought to be coarse or doubled, in order that it should retain more water, and it should not be wrung out very tight. In a thick wet sheet the patient will be better cooled than in a thin sheet, and he will be able to stay longer in it, before changing. But, although he will feel easier for a little while, the heat and fever will soon increase again, and in proportion as the sheet grows warmer and warmer, he will become more and more restless, and the changing of the sheet will become indispensable. When the symptoms increase again, the sheet is changed a second time, and so on till the patient perspires and becomes permanently relieved, which usually happens in the third or fourth sheet. After the first, every following sheet is wrung out tighter and tighter, and the last one may be taken single, or doubled only at its upper end.

Before perspiration comes on, there is a little more excitement for a few minutes, which must not induce the friends of the patient to take him out of the pack; only when it continues to increase, instead of the perspiration

breaking out, it will be necessary to change the sheet another time, as in that case the organism is not fully prepared for perspiration. The patient perspires as long as he continues easier, which can be ascertained by the pulse at the temples and by the thermometer. Half an hour to one hour is commonly sufficient; however, if the patient is not anxious to come out, he had better stay till he becomes uneasy, as a good thorough perspiration will be a great relief. It would be unwise to let the patient stay too long and get him in a state of over-excitement; but, on the other hand, parents ought to remember that no child *likes* to be packed, and that a patient in high fever is a bad judge of his own case. I have always found those children the best patients who had been brought up in strict obedience to their parents' will before they were sick. When the symptoms grow worse again during perspiration, it is time that the patient should be taken out of his pack and cooled down by the bath. Although the temperature, in sthenic cases, should be a little lower than in erethic cases, it is not advisable to use the water very cold, as this would cause too strong a reaction, and consequently new excitement. The safer way is to let the temperature of the bath be between 70 and 65°, according to the age and constitution of the patient, and to let him stay long enough in the bath to become perfectly cool, which can be ascertained by placing the hand or the thermometer under the armpits. I understand, in advising such a bath, that the patient be hot and the rash standing out full and bright on coming from the pack; or else the bath must be short, not exceeding a minute or so. After the bath, the patient is rubbed dry, and either taken to his bed, or, if he feels well enough, dressed and induced to walk about the room, or placed in a snug corner (not near the fire, however) till he feels tired and wishes to go to bed.

In bed, a wet compress is put on the throat, and another on the stomach, which has a direct influence on that organ, and besides acts as a derivative upon the throat and the head, assisting in allaying the fever and heat. This compress on the stomach is an excellent remedy with small children and infants in a restless, feverish condition. I often use it, even with infants scarce a week old, and always with perfect success. I wish mothers could be made to substitute it for paregoric and the like stuff to procure their crying infants relief and themselves rest. There is more power in the compress than any one who is not familiar

with it can imagine. At the same time it has a very good effect on the bowels, which should be kept regular, either with the assistance of tepid injections, or, if they fail to operate, with a dose of castor oil. If possible, however, avoid the irritation of the digestive apparatus through medicines.

If the *throat* is in a highly inflamed condition, repeated packing is the surest means of allaying the inflammation and preventing *croup*. Although I have had very bad cases under my hands, I never saw a case of scarlet-croup under water-treatment. All you have to do is to pack your patient early enough and often enough to keep the inflammation down, to keep a wet compress on his throat and chest, and in general, treat him as I have prescribed. The condition of the throat will improve in proportion to your perseverance in packing and bathing.

The packs and baths should be continued, even when the patient cannot be prevailed upon to stay long enough in the pack to perspire. The heat of the skin and the general inflammatory condition of the whole organism *must* be allayed, especially when there is much *delirium*. In that case, the patient ought to be kept long enough in the bath to clear the head, and care ought to be taken that he should never stay in the pack to become much excited. Should the half-bath or shallow-bath (which are the technical terms for the bath as described above,) not be sufficient to relieve the head, the patient must be placed in a sitz or hip bath of 65° to 70° and stay there, with his body covered by a blanket or two, till the head is easy. During and after the sitz-bath, the parts exposed to the water, as well as the lower extremities, should be rubbed repeatedly, to favor the circulation of the blood. The head should be covered with a compress, dipped in cold water and but slightly wrung out, to be changed every time it becomes warm. The sitz-bath may be taken in a small wash-tub, large enough to allow the water to come up to the navel of the patient, and to permit rubbing; or the patient may be placed in his usual bathing-tub, with little water in it and the lower end raised by putting a block under it so as to allow the feet to be out of the water. This latter practice is the better with very small children, with whom, however, the sitz-bath will scarcely be required. Should the delirium not be removed in half an hour, the patient must be packed again, and the sitz-bath repeated, till the head is clear.

In excessive heat and continuous delirium, a half-bath may be given, also, every time the packing sheet is changed. The rule is that *we* ought not to yield, but *the symptoms must*; and they will, if the treatment is persevered in. Only go at it with courage and confidence. There is nothing to be apprehended from the treatment; where there is too much heat, there is no danger of a lack of reaction, and consequently no occasion for fears that the rash might be "driven in."

The sitz-bath acts in a direct manner upon the abdominal organs and the spine, and through the latter, on the brain. Indirectly it helps in removing the inflammatory and congestive symptoms in the throat and head, by cooling the blood which circulates through the parts immersed in the water, and by doing so cools also the upper parts of the body, equalizes the temperature, and diminishes the volume of the mass of the blood, thus making its circulation easier, *whilst it has no tendency to impede the action of the skin*. After the sitz-bath, the reaction takes place in those parts which were immersed in the water, thereby making the relief of the upper parts more lasting.

When the patient is through the first part of the period of eruption, the symptoms decrease, and he will be easier. Under the treatment prescribed, the time when the excitement is highest, is much abridged, and usually the treatment can be relaxed in less than twenty-four hours. When the patient is easier, the treatment may be given as in the milder form of scarlatina anginosa, with due regard to the state of the throat. In proportion as the heat abates, the packs should not be repeated so often, the sheet not changed; the patient should stay longer in the packs, and the baths should be shorter. The sitz-bath would, then, be out of season. The packing should be repeated whenever the symptoms increase again; but even if they should not, one pack and bath a day are necessary.

During and after desquamation, the treatment should be continued as indicated in milder cases. The patient may leave his room by the sixteenth day, under the precautions given above.

3. When the *reaction* is *torpid*, the pulse small, weak, quick, the skin dry, the rash slow to appear, and when it appears coming in small, pale, livid spots, instead of bright scarlet patches; the treatment ought to be calculated to produce a short but powerful stimulus upon the surface of the body, upon which a long

pack should grant time to the organism for a slow but continuous and increasing reaction. If in violent reaction short packs and long cooling baths are indicated,—in torpid reaction, cold and short tonic baths or effusions and long packs are required, in proportion to the degree of reaction. Therefore the packing sheet should be very cold, but thin and well wrung out, so as to make a strong but transitory impression, soon overcome by the reaction it called forth, upon which all our success depends. The patient stays in the pack till he becomes quite warm and tired. Perspiration is seldom produced; if it is, it should be considered a favorable symptom. I have had patients stay in the pack for four, five, six and seven hours, and almost always when I took them out, their skin was covered with eruption. The only phenomenon which should induce the physician to relieve the patient of the pack, before he becomes perfectly warm, is increased delirium, which, in torpid reaction, indicates a tendency to a typhoid character of the disease, when the warm and moist atmosphere of the long pack would be more favorable to the disease than to the patient, by weakening the nerves still more. In that case, a long half or sitz-bath would be required. Usually it is time for the patient to come out of the pack, when the pulse becomes fuller and stronger, the face begins to flush and the head to be affected. Frequently he sleeps till awakened by the increasing heat. A drink of cold water will quiet him for a while, which is best administered by means of a julep-tube. After the pack, he is placed in an empty bathing or wash-tub, and cold water (65° — 60° Fahr., and with grown people even colder,) is thrown over him in quick succession, whilst he is well rubbed all over his body, especially the extremities. Not too much water should be poured over the head; however, the head should be always wetted first. This process should not last longer than a minute or two, except the patient continue very warm during the effusion. After it, he should be rubbed dry, first with bare hands and then with a dry sheet, and put to bed again, or, if he feel inclined to stay up, dressed warmly and be induced to walk about as long as he can.

If no rash appear during the first pack, which will scarcely fail, the proceeding should be repeated, and the patient stay longer in the pack. In very bad cases, when the patient fails at once under the action of the poison, iced water or snow may be resorted to. I know several instances of patients having been given up by

their physicians, reviving again in a snow-bath which produced a healthy reaction, when nothing else was of avail. I have never had occasion myself to resort to such extremes, cold water having always answered my purposes; but I would not hesitate a minute to use snow and ice in a case where I could think it useful and necessary. Such proceedings *look* cruel; but it is decidedly more cruel to let the patient die. I distinctly remember a case which occurred in Cassel, when the physician objected to "tormenting the poor boy," and wanted the father to let him "die in peace." But the father, (a Mr. Rossteuscher,) who had some knowledge of hydriatics, put the little patient, a boy 8 or 9 years old, into a snow-bath, and in less than half an hour he became conscious again, was placed in a dry pack, when he perspired; the rash came out and the patient was out of danger in four hours' time!

Should the patient remain cold in his pack for longer than an hour—a case which will very seldom occur—a little wine may be given him to assist the organism in producing a reaction; and in case of need the dose may be repeated once or twice in intervals of half an hour. The quantity should be very small, as the head must not become affected by it, and it will be best that it should be mixed in some water or beef-tea.

In very obstinate cases, when no rash would appear after two or three long packs, I have succeeded by washing the patient with ice water or snow, rubbing him dry with my bare hands, and then packing him in a dry blanket. After staying there for several hours, more or less eruption always appeared.

The wet compress on the throat in very torpid cases should not be changed often, but left till it becomes almost dry. Should the feet of the patient be cold, a bottle filled with hot water and wrapped in a piece of blanket should be placed near them, either within the pack or out of it, when the patient is lying in bed. The feet should always be kept warm.

If the circulation of air is necessary in any other form of scarlet fever, it is all-important in torpid reaction, especially when it inclines to a typhoid type. We should never forget that it is the oxygen of the air that nourishes the process of combustion going on in every living body, and that, in the same manner as no fire can burn bright without a sufficient supply of air, the combustion within the patient will be slower in proportion as there is less pure air in the sick-room, and consequently his reaction will be weaker, and *vice versa*. A sick

room filled with a number of people, and with a large fire in it, or fed with the corrupted air of a furnace, without access of pure air, will always prove a dangerous place for a patient in torpid fever, the fire and every living soul in it absorbing the oxygen indispensable to him. And if the case become typhoid, there is little hope of saving the patient's life without plenty of pure air.

Whether the eruption appear or not, the packs should be kept up during the whole course of the fever, and as long as the throat continues troublesome; and one pack and bath a day should be given some ten or twelve days after every symptom has disappeared. The patient, during convalescence, should not go out, except in fine sunny weather, till he feels quite well. However, he should not be kept unnecessarily too long in-doors either, as exercise in the open air will assist him in regaining his strength.

In affections of the *brain*, the *cerebellum* and the *spine*, (when the patient complains suddenly of violent headache, vomits repeatedly, loses his eyesight, has furious delirium, or coma; when his pupils dilate, the pulse becomes small, intermits, &c.; or when the patient complains of violent pain in the back of the head and neck, in the spine, and frequently in the whole body), the danger which threatens the patient's life is averted principally by the sitz bath. The nervous system needs support, and the circulation must be regulated. In every case where the packs do not relieve the symptoms in the head and spine, the sitz bath is probably the only remedy to remove the danger. It should be about 70°, and the patient should stay in it till relieved, which will probably be in half an hour. It will scarcely have much effect in less time. After the sitz bath, if the patient feel sleepy, he may be put to bed; if he continue restless and still complains of pain, he should be put in a wet pack of about 65°. There he should stay till he complains of more pain, when the sitz bath is repeated. If there be much delirium, the sitz bath should be longer, and the pack short, say an hour or less. The packs and sitz baths are to alternate in this manner till the patient feel-relieved and the nervous symptoms disappear altogether.

I repeat that in such cases the sitz bath is the only anchor of safety. I have often tried to remove those dangerous symptoms by packs, affusions, and baths, but almost always in vain; whilst the sitz bath has never failed to insure success. As I am the only writer on hydriatic

treatment of scarlatina, who mentions the sitz bath in those cases, and as I used it first with one of my own children in 1836, when all seemed to fail, saving my boy's life with it, I would be glad to corroborate my advice by a few cases; but my article has grown too long already for a journal to permit any illustrations, which I shall give in the little pamphlet I am going to publish about the subject, and to which I take the liberty of referring those of my readers who wish to learn more about it.

In *typhoid* cases, the sitz bath or the long half-bath are likewise the best applications to be resorted to. I have had quite a number of cases to treat, and with the exception of one I have cured them all. The last case I treated was a young Scotchwoman, who became worse and worse, till I gave her two half baths a day of 20 to 30 minutes each. She was a scrofulous subject of low organization, who had always been sickly. From the first bath, her head became clearer, although she was not without delirium for two or three weeks, and she was able to walk back from the bath-room, whilst she had to be carried in. She had at last a gathering in the submaxillary glands which had to be opened outside, and which continued to discharge for several weeks. But her health improved, and became better than it ever was before.

Before concluding my extract, I ought to mention that no one need be scared from the use of hydriatic treatment for want of bathing conveniences. In houses where neither a bathing tub nor the necessary quantity of water for a bath can be procured, a *rubbing-sheet* in mild cases of scarlet fever, or a *dripping-sheet* in violent fever will do. I understand by the former a sheet dipped in water and wrung out. This sheet is thrown from behind over the patient's body, covering the head and all, and then the patient is rubbed with and upon it. In case of need the process is repeated, till the patient is sufficiently cooled down. Then a dry sheet is thrown over him and the rubbing resumed, till he begins to warm nicely up.

The *dripping-sheet* is taken in an empty wash-tub, or in one of the well-known tin bathing-hats. The sheet is placed in a pail with water which stands close by the hat; the attendant seizes the two upper corners of the sheet, and as soon as the patient steps into the hat, draws the sheet out of the water and throws it over the patient as described before. Then the rubbing begins, and water is repeatedly thrown over the patient, till he is cooled down. Then the dry sheet replaces the wet, &c.

There will always be a bathing-tub and water enough for a child.

PARISIAN HOSPITALS.

The oldest hospital in Paris is the Hotel Dieu. In the seventh century, St. Landry, Bishop of Paris, established it as a *maison des matriculieres*, where a certain number of poor received episcopal charity and medical attendance, from a fund with which it had been endowed by him.

The buildings comprise separate structures, a part of which stand upon the *ile de la cite a fenestra* in the Seine, and the remaining portions on the south bank of the river. One principal entrance is from the square upon which Notre Dame church fronts. In the three stories of Hotel Dieu, there are eleven hundred and fifty beds, attended by a retinue of nine physicians and three surgeons, an apothecary, thirty-two house students, three chaplains and one hundred and fifty servants, at an annual cost of a million and a half of dollars. The wards contain each a hundred or more beds; the entrance is surmounted by the name of some saint which designates the department. Around the beds are white curtains, which form a partial seclusion and screen from the light, rising only a few feet above the bed, and being open at the top, they present no obstacle to a free change of air about the patient. Sixty *religieuses*, of the order of St. Augustine, administer spiritual consolation to the inmates of the hospital. Their demure and subdued aspect, robed and horded in white, attentively waiting to perform some kind office for body or mind, is a striking feature in the French hospitals. Behind the surgeon, and students who attend him, follow waiters with lint bandages and surgical apparatus. Minor operations are performed, as the patient lies on his bed, by the surgeon or house pupils; no anæsthetic appliance is made in cases which in this country would be thought of sufficient severity to require it. In the vestibule, portraits of Dessault, Bichat, Dupuytren, and other distinguished physicians and surgeons of this hospital may be seen.

The Hospital du Midi, and the name of Ricord are closely associated. Here he may be seen in the position from whence has originated much of his fame. Born at Baltimore, in the year 1800, and subsequently residing in England, he is still eminently French. The

rapidity and brilliancy of his speech are almost incredible. Both students and patients regard him with admiration. The inmates of the hospital he calls his children, and they are treated by him with a more than professional regard. Sly jests and jocose allusions intermingle with grave questions of diagnosis and science. The strife to get within sight of the bedside, is sometimes very sharp. The notices posted here and there, forbidding to spit on the floor, would certainly be uncalled for in this country. The old convent of the Capuchins, which forms the present hospital is, notwithstanding, the dirtiest in Paris. Its six hundred and fifty patients are exclusively attended by men. Women are excluded, as in the time of the monks; but to what a purpose have their chaste cloisters been devoted? In the language of the distich:

"Qui vero, nunc si viveret
Bonus iste clericus disceret."

"What would the worthy clerk now say
If he were living in our day?"

A forced celibacy exists in France, consequent upon the complicated condition of society. As a sequence, vice exists to an unparalleled extent, and the necessity arises for such vast institutions as the hospital. The hospital prison of St. Lazare occupies a similar position for females. Originally a retreat for lepers, the remains of kings were deposited there, to receive the effectual prayers of the poor, before being interred at St. Dennis. In the seventeenth century, it became a monastery, and during the reign of Terror, a prison from which the revolutionary tribunal sent seventy-six victims to the guillotine in one day. The prostitutes of Paris are under a rigid police inspection, and if any of the number, all of whom are registered, fail to present themselves semi-monthly for a clean bill of health, they are immediately brought before a magistrate, and disposed of according to circumstances.

Velpeau, the son of a country blacksmith, near Tours, made his first attempt in medicine upon a poor neighbor. His only instruction had been a treatise on domestic practice, and the patient getting worse, a physician was called in, who, learning the intelligence of the future surgeon, interested himself in his behalf, and sent him to Paris. At his first *concour* he gained the place of house physician in the hospital of St. Louis. Afterwards he was twice unsuccessful in competition for the chairs of pathology and physiology, and subsequently failed in the contest for an obstetrical appointment. In the end, however, he gained the

chair of clinical surgery, Lisfrane being his competitor. He is now advanced in years, though scarce abated in vigor.

Piory and Nealton may be seen at the Clinical Hospital of the faculty of medicine, opposite the school. Piory speaks English, is possessed of great readiness and accuracy in auscultatory phenomena; Nealton is the surgeon who is supposed to be fitted eventually to supply Velpeau's place.

Attleboro', Mass., Jan. 9, 1856.

[Communicated for the Medical World.]

LARGE CHARGES.

Messrs. Editors:—There is no overrating the average cost of consulting oculists. Patients complain, and not without reason, that there is no just scale of proportion existing between the charges of our best surgeons and special operators on the eye. It is inferred from a paragraph editorial, that you favor what in ordinary parlance would be called good prices,—meaning, it is imagined, that they should bear some relation to the exorbitant expense of living in these dear times. Please remember that a poor man may have a cataract, — and must he remain blind because he is unable to pay for being couched?

Who complains most of these operation and advice charges,—the poor or the rich? Neither, as far as my experience is a guide; but those of moderate means, who wish no charitable assistance, and yet have not enough to meet the demands of the oculist, without serious embarrassment.

That the New York oculists are garnering a harvest from our New England fields, must be gratifying to their ambition. If a trip of three or four hundred miles can be made, and a consultation had, and an important operation also, for less than a peep into the eye would cost at home, why, the current will naturally set in that direction.

K. T. D., M. D.

Death of the Chinese.—The astonishing calmness with which the Chinese see the approach of death does not fail when the last moment arrives. They expire with the most incomparable tranquillity, without any of the emotions, the agitations, the agonies, that usually render the moment of death so terrific. Their life goes out gently, like a lamp that has no more oil. It appears to us that this is to be attributed, first, to their soft and lymphatic temperament; and, secondly, to their entire want of religious feeling.

SCIATICA.

ANOMALOUS APPEARANCES ON VACCINATION.

I was called to Capt. N. aged 55, last September, who had been afflicted with Sciatica ten months, occasioned by over-exertion in loading wood. It was proposed to make an issue near the hip, to which he objected; for he thought it would do as well below the knee, and be "more out of the way;" to this I objected, as being unprecedented so far as I knew. However, he burnt a piece of touchwood below his knee which discharged freely for some time, but produced no relief; and I was again called in October; the pain being severe, and he confined to bed. I adopted the course of Dr. Blakeston, as reported in the 31st Part of Braithwaite's Retrospect for 1855, by applying a blister near the hip, directly over the seat of the pain; and when the cuticle was perfectly raised, removed it, and dressed the part with 1 gr. sulph. morphia, rubbed with a little white sugar. In a few moments after the application was made, a peculiar sensation was felt through the whole system,—not painful, nor particularly unpleasant; and this dressing was applied once daily for six days; the pain gradually abating after the third application, though not to the extent I anticipated from Dr. B.'s Report. A half gr. of morphia was now added to the powder, and applied twice daily for three days, when the pain entirely ceased, and has not since returned; though for the last ten hours before it ceased, it was very severe in the foot and ankle. No medicine was given during the above applications except an occasional laxative. After the third day, it became necessary to apply the blister again to keep the part open. Though much debilitated by the long continuance of pain, he was soon able to walk with the assistance of a cane.

Another case of protracted sciatica came under my care several years since, which was at first treated by blistering and external irritants, which produced very little temporary relief; when it was proposed by Dr. Mc'Collum, of Barnstable, to try the colchicum; and commenced by giving 12 gtt. tinct. colch.; and increasing the dose iij gtt. every four hours, till he took nearly thirty drops at a dose; when it cathartized him thoroughly and debilitated very much, but relieved the pain; and he gradually recovered under the use of the following liniments, ol. olin ʒij; spts. amm. ʒij; spts. zereb ʒi tt.

Anomalous Appearance succeeding Vaccination.—Many years since I vaccinated a girl, aged 8 years; and on the 4th day the puncture exhibited the usual appearance; but soon after the redness disappeared, succeeded by slight nausea. The next day a row of pustules appeared at the edge of the hair on the forehead and temples; and a few on the body and legs; giving rise to the suspicion that I had used variolous, instead of vaccine matter, which produced serious alarm; and I was called on the evening of the 5th day. The pustules varied in size from the head of a pin to that of three times that size, and all of them exhibited the genuine characteristics of vaccine in shape about the 6th or 7th day, except the redness and swelling at their base. There was no contagious disease prevailing in the neighborhood; and she had kept house for several days. The pustules soon began to disappear; and at the end of three days scarcely a vestige of them was left. In a few days she was re-vaccinated, which produced a genuine vaccine pustule. I have mentioned this case merely for its novelty (at least to me), not having seen anything like it in a course of forty years' practice.

WM. GREENE.

North Falmouth, Mass., Jan. 6, 1857.

PROSPECTS FOR PRACTICE.

Messrs. Editors:—After long inquiry and some considerable personal effort to find a suitable spot for pitching my tent as a practitioner of physic and surgery, I have finally fixed upon this thriving city—Bangor, in the sovereign State of Maine.

Imprimis.—It is insufferably cold here. I am sure the mercury has been as low down in the bulb of the thermometer as it could go,—and, as the reporter of the weather said of that refrigerating centre of freezification, Franconia, N. H., a few years back, it would be colder if the tube of the instrument were longer.

There is no scarcity of candidates for professional favors in Bangor. They are not as plenty as locusts in Egypt, but they are quite too numerous for the prosperity of each other. It is very well for the proverb to declare that half a loaf is better than none; still if half a loaf is too small to sustain life, why a lingering death of starvation is a positive certainty.

As in other regions where there are people enough of eminent position to sustain about half a dozen general practitioners, there are

so many of us that all of the younger grade are on short allowance; yet with each rising sun, hoping—I almost said praying—that somebody may need my distinguished services. Three or four gentlemen, very worthy and skillful, monopolize all the business worth a shilling. Till one of them hangs himself, or retires on his laurels, there is not the shadow of a chance to earn enough, by prescriptions, to pay my laundress.

O that my father were a millionaire, that I might feel, on lying down at the solemn extremity of my office, that my natural wants, which are all necessities, would be provided for to-morrow!

One of the interferences with my prospects—and, by-the-by, it is also playing the mischief with the old-established, universally respected physicians—is homœopathy. How it may be in other ilks, I know not; but here, the rich, the learned, the witty and wise, are all stark mad in pursuit of the pin-head pills. Those who for twenty years have swallowed boluses of all dimensions ordered, and taken powders in full measure, as their ancestors of precious memory did before them, are rebellious all at once, and give their whole influence in favor of this abominable medical heresy. What is to be done?

Some of those excellent young doctors who were most carefully educated in the strictest sect of the good old school, in which I perceive you have undiminished confidence, stood guard at the outer door of the temple, till they assure me they were impatient. They had nothing, got nothing; and, worse still, nobody cared a fig whether they lived or died. In a moment of desperation, they turned their coats and put *homœopathic physician* on their signs, and now they are oppressed with a flood of profitable calls.

Here is a mystery. Either the people are insane, to give employment to this increasing host of innovators, or there is something in the system we practise that might be safely modified to meet the difficulty.

Nothing can be more ridiculous than the frequent prediction that these homœopathists have had their day and patients are coming to their senses. They are alarmingly on the increase at all points of compass, and they command the best, that is, all the paying, practice, although, upon an average in this direction, they charge a third more than the ordinary tariff of us regulars.

How excessively mortifying all this! Here I am, five feet nine inches tall, educated in the

best New England manner, — with lots of certificates from Boston physicians, who recommend me as being qualified to do mighty great things — and no doubt glad enough to get me out of their circuit at so cheap a rate; but these papers from respectable sources neither bring practice nor defray bills.

So much for a young physician's condition and prospects in Bangor. Bad enough! but it is far worse in the still smaller cities — as Bath, Hallowell, Augusta, &c., &c. It is my impression, the result of profound meditation in a seedy coat, that there are too many of us in the world — certainly in the State of Maine. What is your opinion, after reading my medical autobiography?

If you please, I may address you again in regard to the Medical School at Brunswick — an excellent, well-conducted institution.

With sentiments of respect,

J. R., M. D.

Bangor, Me., Jan. 10th, 1857.

FLOATING FACTS.

Effects of Fright. — About two years since, a lady of Gloucester, Mass., in crossing a railroad bridge, with her husband, on foot, to shorten the distance to their home — found, after going a little way, that it was not planked, and is about fifty feet above the water. So great was the effect of the excitement caused by this dangerous feat, that Mrs. Thomas, who was in good health previously, has been in poor health ever since, and during the time that has intervened *has not spoken a word*. This case has attracted the attention of the medical profession.

An Aged Woman. — A Mexican paper says that an old lady has lately died at Actopan, at the wonderful age of 139 years. We may well say that the oldest inhabitant of Mexico or any other country is dead. One hundred and thirty-nine years! What a history is included in this time, and how trivial must have appeared to her the revolutions and strifes in her country! She had seen in her time twenty-eight changes in the delegates of Spanish power, and has, since the independence of her country, seen the fifty changes which have taken place in the administration of the government. Altogether, Mexico has had over seventy-five changes in the chief magistrates of the country in this woman's lifetime!

Hearing under Water. — That all aquatic animals hear distinctly under water, at a great distance, admits of no question. But that an ear constructed for appreciating sounds or rather concussions occurring in that element, can also take cognizance of sounds occurring in the air, while the animal is still submerged, might lead to a discussion among physiologists. How is the following fact to be disposed of? "Herodotus and Pococke assert that some animal is made to cry near the river, so that, by its noise, the crocodile may be attracted to the spot. Mr. Waterton's Indians pursued a somewhat similar plan; for we read that one of them, having laid the bait, 'took the empty shell of a land tortoise and gave it some heavy blows with an axe. I asked him why he did that. He said, it was to let the cayman hear that something was going on.'"

Difficult to Comprehend. — When the late king of Oude took a dozen papers of soda at once, which had been sent to him by William the IV. it was recollected that the tartaric acid papers had been omitted, by mistake. They were quickly dissolved and the whole swallowed. His majesty had terrible explosive pain in the bowels directly after. He rolled over the floor of the palace, shocking the court by his extraordinary exhibition of prostrate sovereignty. At an interval of distress he said it was difficult to comprehend why such powders were considered royal medicine in England.

Ancient Dream. — Cicero relates that two Arcadians, travelling together, came to Megara, a city of Greece, — one lodging at a friend's house, the other at an inn. The one at his friend's, dreamed his friend at the inn came and asked his aid, saying the inn-keeper was going to kill him. The dreamer at first rose in alarm, but soon retired again; when his friend appeared the second time, stating that he had been killed, that his body was in a cart and covered over with dung, to be borne out of the city gate early in the morning, where he was entreated to go and watch. The man went out as directed, found the cart driving out, and began to question the driver, when he fled. The inn-keeper, however, was taken, tried and executed.

Statistics of Insanity. — It is estimated that the number of persons afflicted with insanity in the United States, reaches, at present, 25,000.

Plague of Pork.—A fatal malady has prevailed among hogs in the Ohio Valley during the past six months. It is computed that between 60,000 and 70,000 have fallen victims to the destructive distemper, within a radius of 100 miles surrounding Cincinnati. The disease is considered incurable, having baffled the most critical investigations into its nature, and as steadily resisted all remedial agents. The malady has been vaguely denominated "cholera," from the failure to discover its true character, and upon that principle which a few years ago prompted mankind to apply the same term to all ills which resemble "cholera" in the human body, and which they did not comprehend. The distemper on which we treat is similar, in some of its operations, to cholera, and in others it resembles erysipelas.

Poison of Guano.—Silas Gravel died in Montgomery county, Pa., a few days since, in consequence of handling guano with his hands when there were slight sores upon them. The guano penetrated these sores, and in a day or two after he experienced a sharp pain in one of his arms, which extended rapidly to the shoulder, and from thence to the body, growing more acute, and causing the whole system to become swollen. In this state he lingered in great agony for about a week, when death relieved him of his sufferings. This case, and others similar to it which have been recorded, should warn farmers and others not to handle guano if they have even a scratch upon their hands.

Prevention of Suicide.—The *Christian Advocate* proposes, as a remedy for the prevention of self-murder, the enactment of a law consigning to the schools of anatomy, the body of every individual, of whatever rank in life, whom a coroner's jury should declare to have committed *felo de se*.

A stop was once put to the self-murder of females in France, by a decree that their dead bodies should be exposed in a nude condition.

An Extraordinary Mother.—A lady stopped at the Madison House, Covington, Ky., with her husband and thirty-two children. She was about 60 years of age, but looked young and hearty. She is the mother of all of them.

Dr. Burbank, many years since a professor of obstetrics in the Berkshire Medical College, stated that a lady of his acquaintance had been in the family way thirty-six times!

Vital Wonder.—Dr. Walton, of Syracuse, extracted a pin, a few days since, from the back of a Miss McKay, of that city, swallowed nine years since when she was of the age of five. Miss M. said she had experienced considerable inconvenience from it ever since. It was taken out about four inches below the shoulder blade.

Youthful Marriages.—The new marriage laws which have just been published in Austria, recognize the marriage of a boy of fourteen with a girl of twelve as valid, "but the parties are to be separated until they are of age."

Singular Aberration.—An insane woman at the asylum in New York has the melancholy notion that she is the successive wife of all the Presidents. She expresses remarkable fortitude at the prospect next March.

Small Pox in Boston.—The number of deaths by small pox in Boston, in 1850, was 179; in 1851, 63; in 1852, 12; in 1853, 5; in 1854, 118; in 1855, 182; in 1856, 78. During the six months ending with December, 1856, there were but four deaths.

Vice of Dress.—At an anomalous sort of convention held at Canastota, N. Y., a Dr. Jackson declared that the disparity between the sexes was owing to a false physical education, and to a mode of dress incompatible with the full development of the physical organization.

Scarlet Fever.—During the year 1856, 362 persons died of scarlet fever in Boston,—187 males, 175 females. The oldest person deceased of this disorder was 40. The largest number of deaths in any one month was in December, when 115 died.

An Aged Smoker.—Jane Garbutt, died Dec. 10th, at Wellburg, county of York, England, at the age of over 109 years. She was an inveterate smoker, and a visitor asked her how long she had smoked, to which she replied, "very nigh a hundred years."

Insect Oology.—A single female house-fly produces in one season 20,080,320.

Some female spiders produce nearly 2,000 eggs.

Dr. Bright published a case of an egg producing an insect eighty years after it must have been laid.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

A class of one hundred and fifteen are now attending a course of lectures at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, only one of the number being from New England. The druggists and apothecaries are accomplishing a great work of the first importance, connected, as their business must always be, with the practice of medicine. Why cannot the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy organize for an annual course of lectures? There is talent, industry, knowledge and wealth, within their own body, and why not exercise their powers?

H. Baillier's, No. 290 Broadway, New York, has very choice collection of works on medicine, surgery, chemistry, electricity, physics, &c. Medical gentlemen will find there, also, the latest and rarest French productions in science.

The January number of the American Journal of Pharmacy is particularly rich in matter. Of course, it is patronized by all who have anything to do with drugs. If, however, any one is so far behind the age as not to order it, we strongly recommend that excellent journal to their immediate consideration. William Proctor, Jr., is the editor.

Some months ago, says a New York paper, an eminent physician was applied to by a family now residing at the West, on behalf of one of its members, formerly his patient, who had been sentenced to prison for theft, for a certificate of "moral insanity." Many years ago the culprit had fallen, suffered a slight injury to his scalp, and that was the foundation for the application. The physician assigned two reasons for paying no attention to the request. One was that he did not deem the injury of the least possible consequence, and the other was, that the party, although able, had never paid his bill.

Dr. Valentine Mott, of New York, performed the operation last month, for the forty-fourth time, of tying the carotid artery in the living subject. He is now seventy-four years of age, and yet does not require glasses in his critical operations.

Where are all the medical graduates of the thirty-nine medical schools now in session, or about commencing their annual lecture terms, to find locations? It is a question not readily answered. Very many abandon the profession very soon after being prepared for its re-

sponsibilities, to follow pursuits more remunerative, in which there is less competition, a broader field for enterprise, in which they are less liable to live on bad terms with gentlemen engaged in the same pursuits.

Dr. Cutler's private institution, at Pepperell, Mass., is in excellent condition for the reception of nervous invalids,—either male or female. He is an experienced manager of the insane, and for many years has been exclusively devoted to the treatment of that class of unfortunates.

A duel has been fought near Napoleon, Ark., last week, between Dr. McCullough and Mr. Mason, a merchant of Napoleon. The former was wounded slightly, and the latter, it is supposed, fatally.

The well-known traveller, Dr. Carl Scherzer, of Vienna, who has just published a new work, ("Wanderings through the Central American Free States, Nicaragua, Honduras, and San Salvador,") has been invited by the Archduke Ferdinand Max to accompany the Austrian frigate Novara, on her intended voyage round the world.

In Iowa, according to the statement of the Governor of that State, there are 120 insane persons; 257 idiots; 102 and 371 who are deaf and dumb. The number of idiots is rather surprising. An asylum for the accommodation of lunatics is in progress.

At Canandagua, Western New York, there is an institution for the reception of the insane, called Brigham Hall, under the care of Dr. Cook.

There died on board the Tennessee, on the last voyage, thirty-four persons, of cholera. The symptoms were marked, the attack in each case being terribly severe, and the collapse supervening in only two or three hours. The dead were principally passengers from California.

The Supreme Court of Connecticut have rendered judgment in the case of the administrator of the estate of the late Dr. James H. Grey, of Springfield, Mass., who was killed on the New Haven Railroad, in the sum of five thousand dollars, which, of course, goes to the bereaved family.

Dr. Thomas M. Brewer, late editor of the Boston Atlas, has become a partner in a publishing house, under the name of Hickling, Swan & Brewer. Dr. Brewer is engaged in the preparation of an elegant and probably very costly work on Oology, which is to be published under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

Dr. John Simmons was robbed of a gold watch and money, by three men in a street of New York, past midnight, a short time since.

Dr. Lightfoot, of Macon, Georgia, was prosecuted for malpractice in the management of a fractured arm. A verdict was rendered against him in the Superior Court for \$2000. Without knowing any thing of the circumstances, we have no doubt in regard to the unrighteousness of the decision of the jury. In instances, here in New England, where the defendants have had the means of carrying on a suit long enough to get at the truth and give time for personal prejudices to cool down to sober reason, such verdicts have often been reversed.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, JANUARY 21, 1857.

STUDYING MEDICINE.—Fears are entertained that the medical profession is becoming over-stocked. Correspondents and conversational intercourse indicate that sentiment to be on the increase. Hundreds or more young gentlemen are annually graduated doctors of medicine—a third of whom, at least, cannot find employment. With the best educational preparations, there may be a deficiency of that essential element in any department of industry, *tact*, which will account for the poor success of some persons as medical practitioners.

Examples are abundant, of the thriving business of individuals who have a peculiar power of adapting themselves to society, but whose professional attainments are not of the highest order. A consciousness of their own limited knowledge prompts them to redoubled energy, and they generally succeed admirably; while the very accomplished medical scholar, relying upon his stock of scientific attainments, equal to any emergency, is overlooked by the people, from whom a support was expected, because they have no passion for patronizing a man who appears from his general bearing, to consider them as very inferior beings.

A physician who cannot adapt himself to the society where he locates, cannot become established. In doing this, no departures from the elevated standard of a gentleman are required. A kindness of manner, without servility, and a proper attention to those who may have good hearts, honest aspirations, with rough exteriors, win the way far more successfully than haughty indifference, and marked deference to a few leading families. Here lies the concealed rock on which the ship of hope is foundered.

There are young physicians who meet disappointment at every turn. They change places without bettering themselves, because the barrier to their success belongs to an unfortunate mental organization. Like Dr. Watts's description of the agonies of sinners—"They change place, but keep the pain."

With erudite qualifications to meet all the responsibilities of an arduous profession, if there are no moral powers of adaptation, combined with an innate sympathy, or, in other words, a pleasant show of everyday humanity, it is useless to attempt practice. This is not a country in which physicians are permitted to dragoon patients into having a medical adviser against their will. There are infinite shades of physicians, the representatives of all imaginable theories—and the sick and their friends exercise an exclusive right of calling on whom they please, and they cannot be persuaded or driven by argument from the exercise of this prerogative.

For agreeable, gentlemanly candidates for medical enterprise, there is room—and there always will be places for them, when the population has been increased ten-fold beyond the present census. But those who cannot bear with the weakness, the frailties, the misfortunes, or the bad grammar of the masses, and without hesitation show their contempt for those of the fraternity less fortunate than themselves in not having been early in life schooled in the mysteries of the toilet and the drawing room, cannot succeed. Those of that forbidding temperament, ought not to have studied medicine. They leave it, ultimately, in disgust, and engage in other pursuits, in which they are less exposed to just criticism. The other classes are not so numerous as to stand in the way of each other's prosperity.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notwithstanding the various remedies proposed, Scarlatina has not been subdued. Either the prophylactic measures recommended sometimes fail, or a thorough effort to limit the progress of that destructive disease among children has not been undertaken. Very satisfactory results from a resort to many of the plans suggested from various respectable sources, might be useful; but whether any one of the modes of treatment advocated in the journals, would equal in practice what is claimed for them in theory, is a question for investigation.

Facts, aye, facts,—those are the safest guides in the administration of medicine. An article in certain forms, which has counteracted the malign encroachments of an insidious malady in one case, may, or may not, do it in another. That is a philosophical conclusion. If belladonna, hydropathy, or any other prescription has invariably saved the patient, then the physician is strengthened in his course. Should one fail, he could fall back upon another. No one's enthusiasm, however, in these days of critical investigation, leads to a belief in specifics. Those articles once sup

posed to be such have lost their reputation, and now, physicians of the different schools, after the manner of modern warriors, march up boldly to the enemy, and if one system of tactics fail, they adroitly fall back upon another, but never relax in effort while life remains. So it is with scarlet fever. A particular scheme of medication may be eminently serviceable in one case, and be of no utility in a second. Nature exhibits the disturbance of functions by an invariable law, and symptoms are the evidences by which one disease is recognized from another, but it is far easier to determine the precise character of the disturbance than to allay it, and raise the sufferer to a normal condition of health.

Without having a positive, reliable, unfailing way of saving the patient when attacked by scarlet fever, it is now established that there are several remedies that should be tried, and although many fall victims, very many are also rescued from imminent danger. It is encouraging to contemplate the intense activity of the medical mind in this country. Every emergency is met by intelligence, research, and a patient investigation of the phenomena of disease. Differently constituted minds take different views of the same subject; but each is animated with a praiseworthy endeavor to bring about the same results, — which simply means, relieve physical sufferings. With all this characteristic mental energy, hope, humanity, and science, death still triumphs over man, and the highest attainments in the divine art of medicine offer but a feeble resistance to that multitude of maladies which sooner or later gain the ascendancy over the firmest organization, and lay the king and the beggar upon the same level.

PRACTICAL ANATOMY IN CALIFORNIA.—E. S. Cooper, M. D., of San Francisco, is giving a free course of lectures on descriptive and surgical anatomy; surgery upon the cadaver; experimental surgery, by vivisection, and instruction upon ophthalmic and orthopædic medicine and surgery, &c. His object is to concentrate the attention of the profession in regard to the importance of these studies. No doubt this may be recognized by-and-by as the nucleus of a medical college. They will not send students from the Pacific shores to the Atlantic to study medicine and surgery, with their known facilities and practical qualifications for carrying on a splendid course of annual instruction at home.

Says Dr. Cooper:—"The climate of San Francisco offers, above that of any other city of this continent, or perhaps the world besides, the greatest advantages for prosecuting the study of Practical Anatomy and of Operative Surgery.

Dissections are conducted here almost free from effluvium the whole year, but particularly from April to October, when the salubrious breezes preserve bodies for any desirable length of time."

MEDICAL PUBLISHING HOUSES.—Awhile since, the good service that has been rendered to the progress of medical science in the United States, by the great publishing house of Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, of Philadelphia, was mentioned, with expressions of thankfulness. There are several others in the same city to which the profession are under peculiar obligations. They will form the subject of future consideration, and their claims to patronage from those they are serving, by bringing out editions of the best European works on medicine, surgery, &c., besides giving encouragement to native authors, will not be overlooked.

There is a publishing house in New York, which, by its enterprise and judgment in the selection of the best foreign books on medicine and the cognate branches, demands a special notice,—Messrs. S. S. & W. Wood,—whose medical bookstore, located at 389 Broadway, is not only a depot where nearly every book worth having may be found, but the firm appear ambitious to assist in developing the medical literature of the country. Very many volumes of a sterling character have emanated from their press, and the immense catalogue of new productions from London and Paris makes it quite certain that medical gentlemen from various parts of the Union, in their visits of pleasure or business to the great commercial emporium, would pass an hour or two very profitably in looking over the splendid collection.

We assume that the profession should patronize those who are doing so much, and so well too, for us. Aside from the enormous outlay of capital in bringing the business of these first-class medical publishing houses to their present position,—which is one that meets the exigency of the times,—it is no longer necessary to send orders across the Atlantic, because whatever is of importance there, is to be had either in an original form here by a speedy importation, or in a reproduction at a lower cost.

This is an essential feature in the management of the financial operations of these medical publishers. Messrs. Wood have contributed largely, by a prudent selection from excellent English and French editions of those particular books which are always standard authorities in the private or public library.

In making reference to these gentlemen, or others who are doing perpetual service in the manner explained, to enlarge the field of medical culture in the country, and bring out new talent, we have no selfish objects to gain — no personal ambition to gratify. On looking back for twenty years over the title-pages of the books we have been reading, and marking the improvement in typography, the quality of paper, the binding, and, above all, in the matter,—who would have the hardihood to deny our obligations to these publishing houses for the progress that has been made, and is still being made in medical books? With these views, we hope both Messrs. Wood and all others devoted to the same useful pursuit may be sustained by those whom they are continually benefiting.

CRIMINAL INSANE.—A reprint of Dr. Jarvis's important paper on this subject, which appeared in the last number of the *American Journal of Insanity*, in a neat pamphlet form, is acknowledged. Dr. Jarvis has the whole ground quite to himself, and we are impressed with the value of his researches to medical jurisprudence. Criminal law, in some of its numerous departments, is far more appropriately treated by doctors of medicine than by doctors of law. This is a case in point. No one but a person intimately acquainted with the ever-varying phases of a mind diseased, is competent to discriminate between the workings of a wicked mind in a healthful body, and the irresponsible phantasmagoric exhibitions of a deranged intellect.

CONSUMPTION OF GOLD IN DENTISTRY.—Thousands of dollars annually are presumed to be used in filling teeth and appropriated in plates for the insertion of artificial teeth, in Europe and America. This is imagined to be an under rather than an over estimate. At least two-thirds of this is consigned to the grave yearly; and as population increases, the quantity of the precious metal thus buried with the body will gradually augment. In after ages, who knows but cemeteries will be violated, as the mummy pits of Egypt are in our day, for the gold which may be found in the teeth of the long forgotten dead.

MARRIAGES.

John P. Hamilton, M. D., of Woodstock, Illinois, to Miss F. M. Belcher.

DEATHS.

In Rochester, N. Y., Mrs. E. A. Longworthy, wife of Dr. H. H. Longworthy.

In Boston, Mr. Freeman Dyer, a talented and highly esteemed member of the medical school, at the residence of his parents in this city. He had been an invalid for several years.

At Placerville, El Dorado County, California, Dr. Benjamin F. Keene, President of the State Medical Society of that State. He retired in good health and spirits, and was found dead in his bed the following morning. He had previously suffered from the invasion of paralysis.

In Edinburgh, Hugh Miller, one of the most eminent geologists of the age, by suicide, whose career was commenced as a common laborer in a stone quarry. His was the great mind of Scotland, at the time of his death. Mr. Miller's personal appearance was not prepossessing. He was of medium height, exceedingly broad shouldered, had a long body, and an immense head, with extremely short lower limbs. These were indicative of a long life, under ordinary circumstances. His hair was red, accompanied by heavy singularly notched whiskers, a freckled face, and such

strength of provincial brogue that in lecturing, his own countrymen were sometimes puzzled to understand him. With the pen, however, he was unequalled in the use and force of majestic and beautiful language. A private letter received in Boston places it beyond a doubt that he premeditated suicide, which he accomplished by shooting himself through the chest, in his library. It is intimated that he left a letter explanatory of the contemplated act. It is further said that he had taken poison the night previously. A post mortem revealed the sad effects of an over-wrought brain. By this melancholy event, a great light of science has been suddenly and unexpectedly extinguished.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 10.

David Ravels 19 days, Michael Callahan 14 do., Michael Regan 2 do., Catharine Cusick 4 mos., David Walsh 3 do., Ellen Kerrigan 14 yrs., John Driscoll 2 do., Elsie A. Nelson 2 do., Mary White 27 do., Joseph Brainard 72 do., Eugene Scannel 35 do., Dennis Coughlan 3 do., Bridget Dillon 2 do., Harriet Dodd 73 do., Emma J. French 3 do., Melinda W. Allison 31 do., Lydia Symmes 66 do., Wm. E. Watson 4 do., Julia A. Gilbert 33 do., Ellen Brown 20 yrs., Frances J. Wallace 12 do., Joanna Staples 33 do., Mary Gettings 38 do., Catharine Merigan 36 do., Edward Doyle 2 do., Mary E. Lecrow 5 do., Elizabeth A. Lecrow 11 mos., Wm. Gerry 23 yrs., Margaret Cotter 12 mos., Daniel E. Sanborn 9 do., Elizabeth Marden 14 days, Emeline Davis 5 do., Constantine McGinnis 7 do., Charles H. Hollis 1 mo., Andrew Coakley 4 mos., Chas. A. Sanderson 10 do., Catharine Carroll 34 do., Peter Dillon 40 do., Mary Rea 95 do., Anthony Veazie 68 do., John Barry 68 do., Geo. Flagg 2 do., Catharine Creighton 30 do., Michael Graham 35 do., Alice M. Burt 3 do., Sarah A. Byam 37 do., Jas. Davis 70 do., Winney White (colored) 88 do., Charles W. Ulmer 14 do., George Gregg 33 do., Ann Coyle 7 do., Wm. Donnelly 65 do., Stephen G. Virgin 38 do., Laura E. Rich 32 do., Robert Johnson 49 do., Betsey E. Cobb 18 do., Wm. F. MacClintock 36 do., William Lowe 5 do., Josephine Jones 15 mos., Charles H. Larrabee 16 do., Charles Yates 23 days, Alexander J. Robinson 4 do., child of John and Mary Fleming 1 day, unknown child 1 day, Matilda Risteen 13 yrs., Theodore Briesse 4 do., Sally Jenkins 34 do., Wm. Dwyer 18 do., James O'Neil 5 do., David C. White 42 do., Lucy E. Robinson 8 do., Ebenezer B. Jackson 37 do., Eliza M. Hall 25 do., Charles H. Fenn 16 do., Geo. Smith 12 mos., Stephen Fitzsimmons 12 days, Hannah Clancy 2 do., Jeremiah Toomey 1 day, Rose Cronan 12 mos., Catharine Griffin 12 do., John H. Griner 17 do., Mary E. Easterbrook 7 do., George A. Easterbrook 6 yrs., Lizzie Scott 2 do., Mary Connell 5 do., William Loring 80, John Moran 5 do., Mary Griffin 3 do., Frank P. Hall 5 do.

DISEASES.—Abscess 2, consumption 14, convulsions 2, croup 3, debility 2, dropsy 3, dropsy in head 2, diseases infantile 12, scarlet fever 27, diseases of liver 2, inflammation of lungs 2, old age 3, other diseases 1 each, 17; Males 49, Females 42. Total—91. Born in United States 67, Ireland 15, British Provinces 7, other foreign places 2.

N. A. APPOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

JANUARY 28, 1857.

NUMBER 18.

THE HUMAN HAND.

On the 24th September, 1856, Prof. Huntington, of Harvard College, delivered an address before the Massachusetts Mechanic Charitable Association, in Boston, which for appropriateness, beauty of expression and loftiness of thought, is rarely equalled. Some parts of it have been selected for these columns, on account of the fine train of philosophical reasonings of the eloquent author, whose anatomical deductions cannot fail of giving pleasure as well as instruction to physiological scholars. There is nothing in Sir Charles Bell's labored production on *The Hand*, which constitutes one volume of the celebrated Bridgewater series, to our apprehension, equal to this unpretending discourse.

Brain and Heart are separate centres of vital systems; co-ordinate economies of the corporeal estate; each an independent organism, with its apparatus and offices; each carrying on its cunning processes; each originating its own complex motions, and maintaining its self-included government; yet both co-operating in a concord of perfect beauty in the commonwealth of the body. The hand is their common agent—their steward, secretary, marshal, factor, finisher.

Yet, when we look at it mechanically, the hand seems hardly less the seat of an organic system in itself. That, also, is a centralized economy. It is the consummation of a complicated order. For the hand properly begins at the roots of life. It is articulated from the clavicle of the chest. It finds, at the scapula, the plexus of muscles and nerves which bind it back and fasten it vascularly to the brain. So it grows out of the midst of the man, and swings by the efficiency of his imperial will.

Every bone and fibre, from the shoulder-socket on, is tributary to the hand; contemplates it, prophesies it, works it. And when

we come to the structure itself, with its framework of twenty-nine bones, its hinges and pulleys, its grooves and cords, its levers and screws of unequal lengths, its telegraph and tubes, its solids and liquids, its cushions and painted coverings, we find it the marvellous medium of man's physical commerce with the world.

Here, then, is the point of contact between our human organization and all the mechanisms of science and art. This is the material joint or shackle, where the forces of machinery and of man meet and interlock. The primal and archetypal tool is the human hand; for complexity, for flexibility, for adaptation, for strength, for endurance, for delicacy, for noiseless play, unrivalled and inimitable. It pulls, and grasps, and drags, and picks, and smoothes, and punches, and lifts, and presses, and rubs, and pushes, and wrenches, and tears, and tickles, and folds, and stitches, and buttons, and kneads, and delves, and scatters, and smites. Will any other tool do so much? Yet, with all this pre-eminence in the aggregate of its qualities, it is limited in respect of them taken one by one. As necessities multiply, man wants more hands, and tougher, and stouter, and longer, than the two that Nature gave him. Mechanism is the effort of this want to supply itself. Mechanism is an extension of the human hand. It is the primitive tool carried out into new sets of links, wheels, cylinders, pivots. Every grist-mill, from that of King Mithridates of Cappadocia, to that of Oliver Evans of Delaware, the threshing machine, the power loom, Archimedes' cranes and Hoe's presses, are only inanimate accessions taken on to our natural constitution, to help out its deficiencies. Cotton cloth was once principally manufactured by the East Indians. But to-day a single hand in Lowell can spin as much cotton in one hour as three thousand Hindoo hands. It is known that the machinery now running in Great Britain can make

more cloth in a given time than all the unaided hands of the whole population of the globe without machinery. It took one hundred thousand pairs of Egyptian hands twenty years to erect the great pyramid. One third as many, aided by the steam power now running in England, would raise the same materials to the same height in eighteen hours. In order to achieve these helping offices with the finest effect, mechanism must imitate those special characters, such as compactness, facility, accuracy, adaptedness, compensations between force and velocity, which give the hand its instrumental perfection, and, indeed, make it, in some sense, the divine model for all mechanics. The Indian muslins prove that there is a touch of the Hindoo woman's fingers finer than any possible machine. If you uncover a piano-forte, you find the light unequal levers, from the key-board, traversing the sounding strings, just as the delicate muscles do which yield their quickness to the musician's fingers, which are named, in anatomy, from that very office, the *fidivinales* of the instrument. The machine that picks has its thumb and finger; the machine that twirls, its wrist.

So, too, a machine that violates any of these manual laws, having too much bulk, or complication, or cost of material to do its own individual work in the best way, at the least cost, is overdone; and it becomes a mechanical rule that excess of elaboration is clumsiness. It is as if the Creator had put fifteen fingers on to each hand. To hit the exact proportion between the tool and the use, is the inventor's problem. The Patent Office at Washington abounds in specimens of these over-wrought designs—contrivances too subtle for convenience—the crude exaggerations of a science exulting in its resources, but not yet ripened into the maturity that likes "too much" no better than "too little," and fits the weapon precisely to the use.

It will be found, too, that the hand can never be entirely displaced. Things will remain to be done by it that nothing else can do. Hence the need, not only of a sentimental recognition of its dignity, but of a muscular practice in its discipline. Christianity and republicanism together have not yet thoroughly killed out the old fallacy about manual labor, and the false shame of a brown skin. In the broad philosophy which is yet to interpret our life, every faculty and limb will be seen to be ennobled by service. The effeminacy of the Chinese aristocracy, who take pride in letting their nails grow as long as their fingers, as a

proof that they never work, creeps into all the nations, and taints them with its pale stupidity. When common sense begins to re-adjust the scale of honors, it will have only to recur to the simple truth just laid down, and to see that the training of the original and most perfect instrument, fastened to our own side, can never be less legitimate or noble than the training of tools which are its copies and assistants.

Hands and machines come to competition. The contrivance that does the work of a hundred hands threatens to leave the hands idle, and the mouths that match them empty. No general reasoning, no grim logic of "Help yourself if you can," no past experiment, quite suffices to allay this alarm of the people. Combining with natural prejudice and the pride of a self-sufficient conservatism, it disturbs many minds, and does retard, in some places, even the impetuosity of nineteenth century invention. I can myself recall the scene,—indeed, it was less than ten years ago, where, in one of the most intelligent agricultural districts of New England, the neighbors of the venturesome farmer who first bought a horse-rake refused to be convinced by the plainest proofs of its economy, but looked askance at it over the fences as an impertinent piece of agricultural heresy, almost as bad as if the good old parson had shortened his sermon below the regular hour and a quarter, giving them less than the worth of their money in the pew-tax. The old spirit is by no means dead—however effectually you, gentlemen, may be aggressing upon it—which has persecuted the prophets, and ridiculed the thinkers, and starved the innovators; which, in the old world, has often collected a rabble to mob a new discovery that came with healing on its wings; which forbade Watt to open his instrument shop in Glasgow; which compelled the House of Representatives of the United States, in 1810, to refuse Robert Fulton the use of their Hall to deliver a lecture on steam navigation, on the ground that it was a "visionary scheme;" which sneered at "Fulton's Folly," as it was nicknamed, in Brown's shipyard, at New York; which actually broke the heart of poor William Lee, in the time of James I., driving him, by English indifference, to France, and then, by French bigotry, from Rouen to Paris, where he died in misery, because the world would not let its stockings be made by his stocking-machine; which, in South America, according to Humboldt, instigated the citizens to petition the government against the building of a road among the Andes, lest it should damage the interests of the carriers,

who had enjoyed the monopoly of carrying travellers across the mountains in baskets strapped on their backs; which influenced the Swiss peasants, when they saw Rupp constructing the superb slide of Alpnach, for bringing down the pine timber of Mount Pilatus into Lake Lucerne, to accuse his trigonometry of being the inspiration of the devil; which drove the lace manufactory and prosperity out of Nottinghamshire into Devonshire; which, only forty years ago, threw brickbats at a collier in Philadelphia who brought down nine wagon loads of mountain coal to sell, hooting after him as an impostor, that pretended to sell stones for fuel; which trembled all the way from Boston to Albany, when the Western Railroad was about to be laid, with the ludicrous fear that horses would go out of fashion, and have to be shot down in their shoes as a drug; which fretted the Flemish gentleman, who began with commiserating American ignorance, but, after hearing from his American fellow-traveller a description of Amos Whittemore's card-machine and Thomas Blanchard's lathe, pronounced them impossible, grew angry, and took to sulks, at the impudence of the Yankee who undertook to put off upon him these stories of Gulliver inventions; which drove Hargreaves out of Lancashire for his life, and prompted Laurence Earnshaw to break up his own machine, in a fit of benevolent apprehension, lest he should take bread out of his neighbors' mouths,—when a bold improvement on both their designs by Arkwright gave wages and food to millions of workmen, raised the commerce in cotton from two million pounds a year to a thousand millions of pounds, and poured wealth into the treasury of the nation and the world.

So far, then, we have the place and office of the hand. It has a school, a discipline and a dignity of its own. It is reconciled with all the mastery that man's best wits can wield. Its skill, in any performance, shares the honors of the brain. The handler is all; the things handled are alike. The wise handler of a hammer, trowel, axe, is as good as he that handles pen, or pencil, or lancet. The pitiful boaster of a pedigree of blood or titles—an ancestry that drove equipages rather than business, swung a dice-box instead of a sledge, and wore clothes as their vocation, finds his level. The hand itself rises to the rank of a reformer. It republicanizes the race. It directs toil by thought. It glorifies its muscles with the crowning mind. It points up, and declares that a man's head belongs just where Nature put it—on the top of his backbone!

Up, then, from hands to head. The hands administer; the head legislates. The hands perform; the head organizes. The hands execute; but it is the head still that originates, or invents. Anaxagoras was only half right; it is not the hand itself that constitutes man's superiority over other animals; but the hand as thought inspires it. The coming in of a new tide of intellectual life is always an epoch in the mechanics' profession; none feel it sooner than they. It exalts their whole estate, if they only welcome it, and raises them to a level with emperors. When Boulton, the engineer, partner of Watt, stood in the presence of George III., to open to him the mystery of the steam engine, and the king asked him, as he might a peddler, "What do you sell, sir?" Boulton replied, "What kings, sire, are all fond of—*power*."

The Saxons, it has been said, are the hands of mankind. But they are more than that. No hands ever smote, and grasped, and split, and builded, like theirs, that did not reach back, in their sinewy planting, to the top of the man, and get their motor forces straight from the imperial mandate there.

By the heart I mean that central organ in man which unites him with his fellow-men, and so makes the best object of his acts and thoughts the welfare of his race. No mechanic, however ingenious the articles he fashions, is symmetrically developed, or educated, till he recognizes that bond. No workman, I hold, whatever his income, has true success, till, in all his labor and contrivance, he has respect for something wider and deeper than his own purse, or fame, or even the mere perfection of his workmanship; that is, for Humanity, Freedom, Truth and Right. And this he does with his heart. The last earthly object of every useful art, and every ingenious invention, is to reach the vital springs of society, to ennoble its estate, purify its relationships and dignify its manners.

A striking proof of this is found in the fact that the appearance of original men has always been called for by peculiar social conditions—showing that God always values men more than abstractions, and the people more than institutions.

Premature Dentition.—A colored child in Prince George county, a few miles below Alexandria, aged three months, has already six perfect teeth, and can talk quite plainly. The child was born with two teeth.

A NOTICE OF THE REGENERATION OF MEDICAL SCIENCE IN GREECE, CONSEQUENT UPON THE TEACHINGS OF PYTHAGORAS.

Medical science in Persia—Foreign physicians patronized by the kings—Egyptians—History of Democedes—Pythagoras—His love of wisdom—His travels—His sojourn in Egypt—Familiar with the Egyptian priests—Retires to Crotona—Works a reformation, and establishes a school there—Institutes a secret society—Skill in medicine—Pythagoras compared with Chiron—Decline of Egyptian influence—Intercourse between Democedes and Pythagoras.

Rollin remarks, that although the science of medicine languished in Greece after the Trojan war, it was nevertheless always cultivated in Persia, and consequently held in great estimation there. Cyrus the Great always took a number of physicians with him in his expeditions, and his rewards to them were of a most liberal kind. It is certainly true, that the Persian monarchs were liberal patrons of the medical art; but there is little evidence for asserting that the Persians themselves, were very skilful physicians, or that, in their own country, medical science was successfully prosecuted. It is a matter of history, that Cyrus the Great sent to Amasis, king of Egypt, for a skilful oculist, to attend to an ophthalmia, with which he was afflicted. It is a fact also, attested by Herodotus, that Darius Hystaspes kept a number of Egyptian physicians about him all the time, who were then esteemed the best in the world. Such incidents betray the nature of the respect paid by the Persian monarchs to medicine in their earlier history; and the regard with which they treated Greek physicians, in after times, proves that it was not in Persia that medical education was fostered, and that it did not rise to eminence there.

Not long after the destruction of Smerdis, the magician impostor, and Darius Hystaspes was seated upon the throne of Persia, (about B. C. 520,) that prince received a fall while hunting, by reason of which his ankle became dislocated. He entrusted the injured part to the skill of his Egyptian physicians. But they failed to effect a cure; and either did, or the king fancied they did, increase the evil, by awkward and rough handling. Unable to obtain sleep for several days and nights, on account of the great pain he suffered, some of his attendants who had heard of the reputation of Democedes, of Crotona,—then a prisoner in his power,—as a skilful physician, ventured to recommend him to the notice of

the king. He was summoned by order of Darius, and appeared before him in chains and rags, as he had been kept, while in custody as a slave of Oroetes,—formerly an officer under the government of the king. At first Democedes denied any knowledge of medicine; but when about to be put to the torture, he confessed, that though he had no regular medical education, according to the rules of the ordinarily established schools of medicine, yet, on account of some intercourse he had once had *with a physician*, he had obtained some skill in the healing art. The case was given into his care, and by the application of fomentations suitable to the swollen and inflamed condition of the joint, Darius was enabled soon to resume his usual avocations. (Herod. Thal. cxix. cxxx.)

A superficial view of the case of Darius, is calculated to leave upon the mind, a mean idea of the capacity of the Egyptian physicians employed by him, and instil a high respect for the skill of Democedes. An analysis of the history of the misfortune of the king, and of the means employed in effecting his relief, however, will not redound to any especial injury to the reputation of the Egyptians, while it will justify the high opinions expressed by historians, of the skill of Democedes. The nature of the injury of the king was serious. His “ankle was quite dislocated,”—or as Rollin expresses it, “his heel was put out of joint.” The chief complaint of Darius against his Egyptians seems to have arisen from the exquisite pain he suffered. His pain is said to have been increased by the twisting and violent handling of the part by these physicians. No surgeon can doubt the necessity of a speedy reduction of the dislocation, at all hazards; nor will any one imagine that it could be effected without great violence and pain. That it was reduced, however, the eventual recovery of the king clearly indicates; and that it was reduced by the Egyptians, is evinced by the fact, that they must have attempted it, in order to have hurt the patient as much as they are reported to have done; and from the additional fact, that Democedes had only to apply simple dressings and fomentations to effect final relief—means which never could have had any efficacy in putting in place a joint. Under such circumstances, instantaneous relief was, in the nature of things, impossible. But people enduring great and constant pain, are not apt to be remarkable for patience; and an exalted station, and unlimited power, are not elements in the circumstances of men, likely

to decrease the natural petulance of human nature, under conditions of affliction. After seven days and nights of suffering, no doubt but the irritated and inflamed joint had become, to some extent, less excited, and then the fomentations employed by Democedes, might have had a very prompt and salutary influence. His prescription was, without doubt, a good one, and had an excellent effect.

So shining and marked an example, at once raised Democedes to the highest pinnacle of fame throughout the world. He was the first Greek physician who had an opportunity, after the rise of medical science in the latter ages of the history of Greece, of exhibiting in a marked and striking manner the superiority of medical practice condensed after the manner of the Greeks, over its diffuse and multiparte condition among the Egyptians. After the time of Democedes, Greek physicians were held in the highest repute in the oriental courts, while the Egyptians became, at length, entirely neglected.

Respecting the conduct of Democedes, when he was brought into the presence of Darius, interpretations of different characters may be made. Herodotus supposes his motive, in his interview with Darius, to have been influenced by a desire to return speedily to his native country; and by a fear that an exhibition of his skill, might result in his detention. It is difficult to see how an honorable elevation in the king's household, would make a return to his native country any more difficult than it would have been, had he continued in the garb and condition of a slave. It is much more likely, that his timidity in undertaking the king's case, arose from a very natural dread, on his part, of the consequences of failure. There is no reason to question the fact, that Democedes was possessed of the same human properties—the same hopes and fears, as other men. Well knowing himself to be in the power of an absolute monarch—among people of different habits from his Grecian companions, and who had a very small regard for the life of a helpless foreigner and slave; and conscious, moreover, that while he had not pursued his professional studies in the ordinary manner of the Greeks, even—he was surrounded by medical men of the highest eminence, from Egypt; it is no wonder, that he hesitated before he could be prevailed upon to commit himself, and that he denied his skill and opportunities, and modestly claimed to have simply derived a little information on medical subjects, by some “communication

with a physician.” Reason will appear for believing, that he spoke only the simple truth in the matter; although his friend the physician, happened to turn out to be the reviver of ancient medicine in Greece, as well as the reviver and reconstructor, upon more modern principles, of most of the learning and philosophy of the ancient and Egyptian world.

The history of Democedes, and of his country, and of his associations, is indispensable to a correct knowledge of the final regeneration of medical science in Greece, and its permanent establishment in a new and befitting dress, in the world of learning.

Democedes was a native of Crotona, in Italy. Crotona was founded by an Achæan colony, (B. C. 710.) Sybaris, the rival of Crotona, was founded about the same time, by a colony of the same people. For a time, these cities flourished in a remarkable manner. The free and equitable institutions of the mother country were transplanted to them. With true liberality, they received foreigners into their limits, and conferred upon them all the rights and immunities of native-born citizens. The wars in Asia Minor, soon contributed to the increase of the population and wealth of the cities of Magna Grecia, and also to the increase of voluptuousness and idleness in them. At length, both Crotona and Sybaris became as celebrated for effeminacy and debauchery as they had been for prosperity and wealth. Such was their character when, about B. C. 550, Pythagoras settled in Crotona. From that period, that city gradually regained its virtue, and became at last as distinguished for the wisdom of its inhabitants, as it had been infamous for their vices. Sybaris did not accept the proffered remedies of Pythagoras, and continued the opposite and the enemy of Crotona, until it was at length destroyed by the Crotonians, under Milo, in a regular warfare.

Pythagoras was born in the island of Samos. His father, Muesarchus, was a man of distinction, and bestowed great pains upon the education of his son. Pythagoras himself was an admirer of wisdom, and applied himself to rival the wisest men of the world. His education was of an almost universal kind. In his own country he studied astronomy, eloquence and logic; and paid also particular attention to the exercise of the body. At the age of eighteen years, he contended for the prize, in wrestling at the Olympic games,—which he gained. His skill, and sprightliness, and beauty, drew upon him the admiration of

the spectators. He was certainly ambitious of renown; and he employed the surest means to obtain it—unceasing application, and untiring vigilance, in seeking out truth, and in applying it to the wants of man. Unsatiated by the knowledge which he had been able to acquire in Greece, he early adopted the resolution, to travel into distant countries, and observe men, and manners, and laws in all their aspects, and under all circumstances. He put his resolution into practice, and became famous, even in the character of a traveller.

By means of Polycrates, tyrant of Samos, Pythagoras was introduced to the highest order of the priesthood in Egypt, where he remained, minutely studying the manners, customs and learning of the Egyptians, several years. He is said to have paid particular attention to religious rights and ceremonies in Egypt—the very institutions said to have been founded by Menes. He also studied the symbolic writing of the priests, and became acquainted with the policy of the sacerdotal order, by means of which it held absolute and continued sway over the kings and the people. Such a course of observation, could not but have made him acquainted with the Egyptian sacred books. The learning that he really acquired, is best measured by the influence he afterwards exerted in establishing rational and permanent ideas, not in philosophy only, but in other sciences, and in medicine among the rest.

After finishing his travels, and concluding his observations, Pythagoras returned to Samos. But he found his native island so completely under the control of Polycrates, that he declined staying there. For it was impossible that such a man as Pythagoras could live, and teach in Samos, while under the capricious government of Polycrates, who, although himself a man of learning, had imbibed the petty jealousy of all tyrants, and even in philosophy, could bear no brother near the throne. Away from home, however, Pythagoras enjoyed the esteem of Polycrates, and in his travels was under obligation to the influence of the tyrant, for introductions in foreign countries, and for enjoying uncommon facilities for acquiring information. Pythagoras, after leaving Samos, went again to the Olympic Games. No doubt his reputation had preceded him. He was there saluted with the title of Sophist, which he declined, preferring the then more modest one of Philosopher, or *admirer of learning*. It is singular, that in ancient Greece, the titles of

nobility, which were considered most honorable, were such as were expressive of wisdom and knowledge, rather than of political station, or of the possession of wealth. After spending some time in Lacedemon, examining the political system of the Spartans, Pythagoras took up his final residence in Crotona, B. C. 560. He was then about forty years of age—in the vigor of his manhood, and of his understanding.

What may have been the motives which actuated Pythagoras in leaving Greece proper, where he was held in high estimation, and removing to Italy, it is impossible to divine with certainty. But it is not unreasonable to suppose, that they were various and mixed. Crotona was very favorably situated, naturally, to become a pleasant and healthful residence. The inhabitants were wealthy, and therefore able to reward his labors—as well as possessed of leisure, and possibly inclination to listen to such moral and rational instructions as Pythagoras was able to bestow. It is quite likely, also, that the peculiar and liberal institutions of Crotona, which admitted foreigners to an equality of privileges with other citizens, and thus entirely obviated the difficulties that a foreigner would labor under, in other countries, had great influence upon the choice of a residence, by Pythagoras. It is beyond question, likewise, that Pythagoras was possessed of an unbounded ambition for fame. The variety of nations which were represented by the inhabitants of Crotona—especially the soft, but intelligent and unscrupulous exiles from Asia Minor—and the necessary toleration which a variety of habits, of faith, and of pleasures, had in that city, could not help impressing upon Pythagoras the facilities it afforded for introducing, with a prospect of success, his new system of learning and philosophy.

It is a lesson, taught by experience, that a great and difficult undertaking is frequently best accomplished, by gradual and imperceptible advances. In all operations, intellectual or military, a *base line* is either, intentionally or intuitively formed, from which to act. To have introduced the Pythagorean doctrines, either speculative or those depending upon recorded experience, at once into Greece, would have been a difficult undertaking. Rivalry and opposition ran so high, that an experiment of effecting so radical a change in the knowledge of men, would have met with a powerful resistance. So averse are men to give up cherished ideas, even though they are

wrong, and so many interests are threatened by any great moral, or political, or intellectual revolution, that the obstacles to be surmounted in the establishment of truth, are not so much the barriers of prejudice and error, as they are the ever-present and all-powerful opposition of pride, of selfishness, and of base interest. Even in Crotona, Pythagoras had to proceed with great caution; and he commenced his instructions; by instituting a kind of private association, or secret society, by which means there was effected a mutual understanding, and a mutual interest in self-defence, amongst his pupils. Pythagoras might also have been influenced in his choice of Crotona as a place of residence by the very character it sustained for looseness and frivolity. No doubt that he had every confidence in the efficacy of his doctrines, in conducing to the moral and intellectual development of mankind. Certainly few cities presented a wider field for philanthropic labors, such as Pythagoras desired to perform, than Crotona.

The reception of Pythagoras in Crotona, was such as to encourage him. His discourses were rational, and he took care to use all his varied arts of eloquence to make them agreeable. In fact, the Crotonians had advanced very far in civilization; they were indeed too much like the double refined society of the politest nations of modern times. "They seemed to have gained knowledge and civility," (and it may be added, frivolous manners and idle pleasures,) "in proportion as they had lost the purity and simplicity" of the more ancient and less advanced ages. Pythagoras frequented the temples and public places of the city, and his attractive manners, his curious and useful information, together with his melodious voice, and penetrating eloquence, gradually obtained for him the attention of the giddy public. His instructions became more pleasing than the ordinary pastimes of the day, and it was a fashionable recreation to resort to his lectures. "The magistrates of the republic erected, soon after his arrival among them, an elegant and spacious edifice, which was appropriated to the virtuous lessons of the admired stranger—who pleased their taste and gratified their fancy, while he condemned their manners and reproached their vices. (Gillies' Greece, chap. xi.)

The precepts of Pythagoras were not thrown away. The fruit of his labors soon appeared. The ladies of Crotona threw aside their worthless ornaments. But it is irrelevant to enter into a minute analysis of all the learning that

Pythagoras professed and taught. His best students he received into a secret association. The members knew each other by signs. From this small beginning, the Pythagoreans spread themselves, and the learning and fame of their founder, all over the world.

Besides philosophy and moral ethics and mathematics, Pythagoras was deeply versed in the natural sciences. He was celebrated for his skill in medicine, which was farther advanced in his native country than in Crotona, (Gillies' Greece, chap. xi,) but which was still better known in Egypt than in either. It was in this latter country, no doubt, that Pythagoras perfected his knowledge in medical science, during the several years he there pursued the business of observing and learning the wisdom of the Egyptians. "War," says Pythagoras, "should only be made against *diseases* of the body, ignorance of the mind, passions of the heart, seditions of cities, and discords of families." (Rollin.)

The instructions of Pythagoras were not confined to one, or even a few, branches of learning. Like Chiron, he taught many and distinct sciences. Philosophy, and government, and ethics, and medicine, all were taught by him upon his own plan; which plan was different from that of the settled schools—and experience has proven it to have been better. Like Chiron, he lived in the acts of his pupils. And his pupils—being scattered throughout the world, at a period when the wars and convulsions with Persia brought merit into notice and secured its reward,—not only spread the reputation of their master, but unlike those of Chiron, they were also to preserve his precepts as he delivered them, and permit the world to judge the master by his instructions, as well as by the success and standing of his followers.

With the dissemination of the Pythagorean doctrines throughout the world, assisted as it was by the wars and political convulsions of the times, and assisted and rendered permanent and uniform by the operation of the secret society that Pythagoras had instituted, the importance of ancient Egypt, and of her changeless institutions, ceased. From that period of time, Egypt is seldom mentioned with the respect and veneration in which she was once held. As a repository of learning, and as influential in the intellectual and scientific world, she soon passed into neglect, and was seldom heard of more.

Pythagoras lived in and about Crotona to a very advanced age.

About the period of the death of Pythagoras, or probably a little before, Democedes, disgusted with the harsh treatment he sustained at the hands of Calliphon, his father, departed from Crotona, and settled in Ægina, a little island not from Athens. He there acquired a great reputation as a physician. After remaining a year, the inhabitants of the island employed him, in a public manner, at a salary of nearly one thousand dollars per annum. The third year he was hired by the Athenians, at a salary of about sixteen hundred dollars. After this year he was employed by Polycrates, the tyrant of Samos, at a yearly salary of nearly two thousand dollars. He remained in the service of Polycrates, until that unhappy monarch was destroyed by the treacherous conduct of Oroetes, a governor of Asia Minor, under the king of Persia. Democedes accompanied his unfortunate patron in his visit to Oroetes, and remained a prisoner in the hands of the Persian, after the destruction of Polycrates. Upon the fall of Oroetes, by the order of Darius Hystaspes, Democedes found his way, among the slaves of the defunct governor, to the capital of the empire—and it was there, and under the above circumstances, that he was introduced to Darius as a physician.

There is no doubt but Democedes had seen Pythagoras. But even if he had not, the pupils of Pythagoras were yet in their prime, when Democedes flourished. Democedes, after his return from Persia, married a daughter of Milo—a celebrated citizen of Crotona. Milo was one of the earliest followers of Pythagoras,—a favorite pupil of his, as well as his intimate friend and host. For the house of Milo was the home of Pythagoras when he first came to Crotona. When the admiration with which the personal followers of Pythagoras esteemed him is considered, (his disapprobation being so much taken to heart, that an admirer of his once slew himself, in consequence of receiving, from the philosopher, a verbal reprimand,) and when the bonds of secrecy and exclusiveness, which his pupils entered into with each other for the preservation of their knowledge, the elevation of themselves, and the extension of their influence, is brought to mind, the union of Democedes, with a daughter of such a man as Milo, must pre-suppose a similarity in taste and interest, between the father-in-law and son-in-law, that can at this day be accounted for only upon the supposition, that Democedes was himself a Pythagorean.

It is by no means extravagant to suppose, that in the wanderings of Democedes, he received the benefits of the recommendation of Pythagoras himself,—and especially so, relative to his connection with the Samian king. This, however, is conjectural. It is known that Polycrates was diligent in seeking out, and encouraging men of science. His employment in Samos may, therefore, have been only on account of his real skill as a physician. But in the histories of Pythagoras and Democedes, there is seen a singular reflux of medical knowledge from Crotona, upon Samos. “Pythagoras,” (says Gillies, chap. xi,) “was especially esteemed by the citizens of Crotona for his skill in music and medicine—sciences better understood in his native country than in Italy.” But in addition to the knowledge Pythagoras had attained in his native country, he spent several years acquiring the knowledge, and observing the customs of Egypt. He even carried his imitation of the Egyptians so far, that he would wear no dress but linen, which was the dress of the priests in Egypt—and would not eat beans, nor permit his pupils to do so—an article of diet held in abomination by the Egyptians. (Herod. Eut. xxxvii.) Paying so strict a regard to customs apparently so trivial,—it is to be supposed, that the attention he is said to have bestowed upon the more important arts and sciences of Egypt, is not exaggerated. Under such circumstances, it does not seem surprising that Crotona, after reaping the benefits of the instructions of Pythagoras, should be able in a few years, to send to Samos, a man who should command the same admiration for skill in medicine, there, that Pythagoras, the Samian, himself, had done, a little previously, in Italy. That Democedes attained his knowledge of medicine from Pythagoras is supported by the undoubted fact, related by Herodotus, that he excelled the most skilful of the medical profession in Ægina, “without having had any regular medical education.” (Thal. cxxxi.) That is, he acquired the skill which he undoubtedly possessed, in a way different from the ordinary course of study, pursued in his time by the Greeks. The way that he actually did acquire his medical knowledge, as he himself relates, before Darius, was through certain communications, or *intercourse with a physician*. No doubt this physician spoken of by Democedes was Pythagoras.

All the several incidents related of Democedes, then, which have any bearing upon the question of the origin of his medical knowl-

edge, point to Pythagoras as his instructor, directly or indirectly; and also as the founder of the reputation of Crotona, as a seat of medical learning.

It may justly be inferred, that the success of Democedes in relieving king Darius, and restoring him to health, met with a generous reward. Physicians were always held in great esteem by the kings of Persia; and the success of the Greek, raised him to a position of peculiar honor and wealth at the Persian Court. Some time after the cure of Darius, Atossa, his queen, and a daughter of Cyrus the Great, applied to Democedes, for assistance in relieving her from the affliction of an ulcerated breast. The malady had been of long standing, and was concealed by the queen, from motives of delicacy, as long as she could bear it. At length, however, the sore became of so serious a character, that she applied to Democedes. What means he employed in effecting her relief, is not known; but she recovered,—and as Atossa is spoken of as alive many years afterwards, it may be presumed that the cure was perfect. Of course it is impossible to decide whether, or not, the ulcer upon Atossa was of a cancerous nature.

It is unnecessary to follow Democedes in his personal adventures, that have no immediate connection with his skill and practice as a physician. Suffice it to say, that so highly were his services valued, that he had to resort to the most ingenious tricks, assisted by queen Atossa herself, and expose himself to great personal danger, to escape from the honorable servitude in which he was held by the king of Persia. His difficulties in this respect, however, strikingly illustrated the high value placed upon his services, by persons accustomed to the best medical advice, and to impress the conviction—if there is anything lacking in the evidence besides—of his real merits.

Democedes at length succeeded in reaching Crotona, his native city, considerably enriched by the treasures he was enabled to save, out of the fortune bestowed upon him by Darius. It was after this event that he married a daughter of Milo. Except this circumstance—his marriage into the family of so influential and reputable a citizen as Milo undoubtedly was—and which his foreign reputation and his wealth would naturally aid him in accomplishing, there is nothing in history respecting him, that would lead to the supposition, that he occupied the enviable position at home, as a physician, that he had abroad. No doubt in Crotona

he found the same fountain of knowledge and skill flowing, from which he imbibed the principles of science, that had subsequently proven so beneficial to him, and had made so many and great changes in his worldly fortunes. He there found his old companions, friends and classmates, and assumed his ancient and natural companionship with them.

MARRIAGE BETWEEN RELATIVES.—Marriage between blood-relations is nowhere of such frequent occurrence as in the localities where are born the greatest number of deaf and dumb. I have before described certain valleys of the canton of Berne, the inhabitants of which, collected in masses, and living almost without any means of communication with neighboring countries, offer all the conditions favorable to these unions between relatives. There the men marry very young, in order to avoid the troubles and cares of a celibacy without compensation. They marry their cousins, and all the families have been allied for a long time. The children of two brothers, of a brother and of a sister, marry as a matter of expediency, and thus preserve the inheritance intact; consequently, the new family is founded in physical conditions than which nothing could be more injurious. It is in the midst of these isolated populations that we find, in all its hideousness, the degradation of the species, the corruption of the race. There reign cretinism, idiocy, and congenital deafness, to such a degree, that the demonstration of the fact I have advanced blazes forth in all its brilliancy. The experiment has been made a long time; it is practised among the masses; the consequences which flow from it are as clear as they are afflicting; and, finally, it would be to reject all evidence, not to recognize in these results the condemnation of such abominable customs.

That marriage between relatives is one cause of the deterioration of the species, is certain. But it may be asked, How can congenital deafness be considered as a proof of the degeneration of the offspring of these unions? I do not pretend to clear up all these mysteries; only it may be said, as a general rule, that the nervous system, which holds the first rank in the human organization, is also that which suffers the most serious injuries; shortness of stature, slowness and imperfection of development, infancy prolonged far beyond its ordinary limits—as M. le docteur Baillarger

has so fully proved—and, finally, obtuseness of the senses, and more particularly feebleness or even want of hearing, are the disasters which are to be observed in the brain and its dependencies. It is man reduced to a merely negative condition, manifesting only rudimentary traces of intelligence—a sorrowful object of disgust to all except to the unextinguishable tenderness of maternal instinct.

If we are reproached with coloring too highly the features of this picture,—of attributing to a single cause this degraded organism, while it may be the result of a rare combination of exceptional circumstances,—it would be easy to prove that it is in nothing exaggerated, and that the practice of marriage between blood relations is the most important of those which can be invoked in such a case. There exist, in truth, families who, living in the midst of luxury and abundance, watched over with the most enlightened care, offer, nevertheless, the sad spectacle of these infirmities of body and mind. These families, instead of seeking a new element adequate to revivify their exhausted organisms, by making foreign alliances, obstinately persist in contracting marriages with branches issuing from the same trunk, perpetually contract the circle, instead of enlarging it, concentrating in these intimate unions the double influence of an origin already debilitated, and suffer the laws of degeneration imposed upon all those who walk in this path of perdition. If, in the confined and isolated localities I have mentioned, a man marries his own cousin,—if the uncle marries his niece, because the scarcity of matrimonial elements renders the thing necessary, other considerations dictate the same practice among those especially who occupy the most elevated stations in the social scale. Royal families, environed by motives of policy, subjected to the exigencies of government, or restrained by incentives of a different order—as the dominant religion of the people over whom they hold sway—can only select their alliances within a very narrow circle; and thus, in spite of the best-directed care, the royal races become enfeebled under the fatal influence of these intermarriages among themselves. Some of these unions remain absolutely sterile; others produce miserable offspring, destined to premature death; the intellect is weakened, or imbecility reveals itself, and even idiocy pierces through all the privacy of a respected seclusion; and the people, who willingly believe that all the miseries of life are reserved for them, see with secret contentment that the throne is not ex-

empted from the most cruel sorrows, and that all the happy privileges are not the portion of those who are the sovereigns of the world.

The history of all ages contains terrible lessons of this kind; it is not necessary to recall them; whoever will reflect upon this subject will find in his memory many celebrated examples to the support of this argument, and will rest convinced that in marriage there exist natural incompatibilities; and that in transgressing the law of dispersion of races, the lessening and even the destruction of the species is involved.

In stating thus distinctly this precept of public hygiene, we have for an end the prevention of the development of one of the most deplorable infirmities; we would wish to exhaust at its source the cause of these organic deteriorations, whose secret reveals itself to the attentive observer. Pathological anatomy of the nervous system, with whatever care it may be exercised, does not always show the lesion which determines congenital deafness; but, in taking counsel from experience, we may destroy one of the most prolific causes of this organic imperfection, and we may diminish the number of those unfortunates to whom the most enlightened and conscientious medical science has not hitherto been able to afford the slightest relief.—*Am. Jour. of Insan.*

SPERMATORRHŒA.

BY MARRIS WILSON, M. D.

In bringing before the notice of the profession the subject of Spermatorrhœa, some curiosity and regret must be felt that, according to the sentiments hitherto expressed with respect to this disease, it has been generally thought necessary to commence with an apology. When so little was known of the pathology of the malady, this proceeding might have been perhaps excusable; but I now intend to adopt a different course, and, on the contrary, demand for my subject a consideration, which the acuteness of its symptoms and the importance of its results, deserve. Were I to look for the causes which have kept our knowledge of this disease at so low an ebb, as up to the present time has undoubtedly been the case, I should find them probably in the obscurity of the physiological and pathological conditions in which the functions of the various organs of generation have been allowed to remain, and

the difficulties in the way of research, that have left unexplained those phenomena which are known.

The absorbing question of the physiology of generation has naturally attracted more of consideration than the mere pathological condition of the organs whence that generation emanates, since in relation with that great function it bears only a kind of mechanical connection.

Generation has been viewed usually as depending upon the fulfilment of certain functional attributes, of an apparatus composed of different parts, but entire and single in its action. On the contrary, a careful examination will teach us that the separate portions of this one great system have a distinct and independent functional capability, consentaneous, it is true, in a healthy state, but in one class of diseased conditions, exerting their specific actions independently and with abnormal activity, while in others they are more or less completely deprived both of functional and structural force. The truth of this statement is open to demonstration by a careful examination of the relations of the organs, such as Nature has displayed them by her evidences in comparative anatomy, as well as in the remarkable consequences which have been well known to result from particular diseases, and from some surgical operations.

I was led, indeed, in the first instance, to form this opinion from the effects produced on a patient who had submitted to the removal of both his testicles, for the purpose of eradicating the disease. As I have more particularly detailed this case in my work which have recently laid before the profession, I shall only take a cursory glance of it, sufficient to elucidate my position.

Mr. A—— suffered early in life from spermatorrhœa, brought on by evil habits acquired at school. For remedying this, he placed himself successively under almost every system of treatment, reasonable and unreasonable, which was in any way brought under his notice, and, in the end, without deriving permanent benefit. Not until after a great struggle, however, he arrived at the conclusion, that the only chance of eradicating a disease which rendered life hateful to him, was by the removal of at least one half of the set of organs, which at that time was considered as the basis of the affection.

This bold treatment did not arrest the malady for any lengthened period, for as soon as

the irritation occasioned by the operation ceased, the emissions returned. Lallemand's plan of cauterization was then resorted to, but without avail; and as he had adopted the notion that removal of the testicle was the only prospect of radical relief, the second testicle was amputated at his particular request. For a few weeks only did this most heroic treatment succeed in its object, for at the end of that term the emissions reappeared, making the unexpected fact stand out clearly, that to the testicles alone was not to be attributed the disease for which he had sacrificed so much. The emissions did eventually disappear under a course of issues in the perinæum, applied with the purpose of removing over-action of the vesiculæ seminales. The phenomena attending these emissions, and other symptoms, after the removal of the first, then the second, and finally, the powerful counter-irritation which eventually resulted in cure, were so marked as fairly to warrant the conclusions I arrived at. Since that time, however, the correctness of my view has been fully confirmed by cases I have had under private treatment.

In seeking to establish the foundation of a classification upon the phenomena peculiar to each separate portion of the system, it will be convenient to take as a basis the changes effected in one of the most important functions of that system—namely, the emissions.

The seminal fluid; as ejected from the urethra, is compounded of the secretions of the different portions of the generative apparatus—that is to say, of the secretion of the testicles, of the vesiculæ seminales, of the prostate and Cowper's glands, and the urethra.

The term spermatorrhœa applies strictly to an excessive discharge of this compound fluid; but as this excess is usually attended at a later stage by the reaction of deficiency, and as that reaction is but one of the results of this same disease, I have found it necessary to include both the excessive and defective action under the same generic term.

With this intention, therefore, in the table of classification which I now submit, the term *spermatorrhœa sthenica* is intended to designate all those symptoms demonstrative of activity, or true spermatorrhœa, as implied in the etymology of the word, while *spermatorrhœa asthenica* marks all those evidences of an opposite character, known as one class of impotency, and resulting from diseased action as opposed to errors in structure and functional conformation.

SPERMATORRHŒA STHENICA.

[*Spermatorrhœa Entonica*—MASON GOOD.]

Structure.		Function.
TESTES	<i>Orchitis</i>	Excessive secretion; relative deficiency of spermatozoa.
VESICULÆ SEMINALES	<i>Vesiculitis</i>	Excessive secretion; with inspissation.
PROSTATE GLAND	<i>Prostatitis</i>	Excessive secretion; increased amount of salts.
URETHRA	<i>Urethritis</i>	Excessive secretion of mucus.

SPERMATORRHŒA ASTHENICA.

[*Spermatorrhœa Atonica*—MASON GOOD.]

Structure.		Function.
TESTES	<i>Atrophy</i>	Impotence; watery secretion; absence of spermatozoa.
VESICULÆ SEMINALES	<i>Irritability</i>	Watery secretion.
PROSTATE GLAND	<i>Chronic Irritation</i>	Diminished secretion and salts; deposit of calculi.
URETHRA	<i>Ulceration</i>	Purulent discharge.

It seldom happens that morbid activity of the function of the testicles, takes place without a corresponding excitement amongst the other portions of the apparatus. Not so, however, with the other organs, for they seem to have less influence in causing a general activity in proportion to their remoteness from the testicles; in other words, the force of activity extends easier from the centre to the circumference, than in the opposite direction, though it rarely occurs that even the most remote organ is affected without some participation of the more central.

Spermatorrhœa is distinguished especially by emission—a symptom that is always necessarily present to constitute the sthenic form of the disease. In the asthenic stage this symptom gradually ceases, until eventually it entirely disappears.

The character which particularly marks emissions containing true seminal fluid, and furnishes the most complete evidence of the involvement of the structure of the testicle in disease, is the presence of spermatozoa. The number of those little beings, however, varies considerably, and though I believe they are reproduced very rapidly in a healthy condition of the testicle, still the large amount of seminal fluid secreted, and its frequent ejection, ren-

der the presence of the animalcules, as a test of the actual quantity of testicular secretion, somewhat doubtful. This, however, applies only when the disease has exhibited great activity. Such is the condition I have named *spermatorrhœa sthenica testiculæ*. The symptoms accompanying this state are swelling of the testicles, pain on moderate pressure, with a sense of weight extending along the course of the spermatic chord, attended frequently with aching in the loins. The symptoms approach very closely to those known as the ordinary symptoms of inflammation of the testicle, or *orchitis*, in a sub-acute form. The force of inflammatory action seldom rises to the point of causing resolution of substance and purulent deposition, but becomes expended upon the function rather than the structure of the testicle, and thus a largely increased amount of seminal secretion follows as the natural consequence of the great disturbance of the organ.

In a normal condition, the peculiar function of the generative organs requires a greater intensity of nervous influence than is usually directed to the functions of the general system, and consumes the powers of vitality in a proportionate degree. Considering, therefore, the abnormal and over-excited condition of these organs in a state of disease, the fearful results to the muscular and vital forces, which after a time follow these attacks, become no longer matter of wonder. At the same time, it must be admitted as surprising that in the earlier phases of the disease, when it occurs in young and healthy patients, so much of this vital exhaustion may be borne without producing any very material injury to the constitution.

When conditions of excitement of the testicle exist, such as would occur under these circumstances, it usually happens that the emissions are attended with erection and with sensations more or less acute. While therefore, these phenomena accompany the disorder, they may be taken in general as a guide that neither the structure nor function of the testicle is injured to an extent involving risks to virility. It may also be fairly calculated that on subduing and removing the excitement, the organs will be found in a state capable of being restored to their original condition of health.

The causes whence spermatorrhœa may arise are numerous; they may consist of certain pathological conditions occurring in the testicles themselves; they may be the mere consequences of inflammatory action in the neighboring parts, communicated along their continuous mucous membrane; or they may

depend upon direct external injuries. In fact, the causes of this disease may be taken as depending on any circumstance sufficiently exciting to establish in the generative system a permanent inflammatory action more or less acute.

Simple occasional emissions often result from mental impressions, depending on states of over-nervous excitement, but these alone are not to be classed as spermatorrhœa; they are neither permanent nor important in relation with the general health, having, indeed, rather an influence in relieving any irregular oppression of the system. If, however, they should be frequently repeated, the groundwork of that disease would assuredly be laid. Many causes of the disease are so evident as to enable us to form a clear judgment as to the mode of treatment, on even a cursory examination. Amongst these may be classed blows, cold, local congestion and direct nervous irritation; and, above all in point of importance, the practice of masturbation. On the other hand, some of the causes of the malady are extremely obscure, and require much consideration to arrive at a just conclusion.

The *treatment* naturally depends very much upon the cause of the attack, and must be varied to meet the circumstances. The plan to be pursued in the particular form of spermatorrhœa I am now considering, or rather the principle to be kept chiefly in view when the symptoms of testicular derangement predominate, is obvious enough,—namely, the reduction of excited action, locally by removing the cause as much as possible, and generally by adopting a course tending to the same end.

The first object may be accomplished by the local abstraction of blood by the application of leeches, and by cold variously applied, as in the form of spirit, lead, and saline lotions, ice, and cold-water bathing. The second by bleeding from the arm, by aperient medicines, and by diminishing both the quantity and quality of the nourishment. The administration of medicines, for the purpose of exerting a special influence over the particular organs affected, must also not be lost sight of, since the restoration of their functions influences in a very material degree a return to health. The remedies which I have found most serviceable in effecting the object in this form of the disease are, tartar emetic, and the non-stimulating sedatives; but the applicability of particular treatment must naturally depend upon the complications which may be actually existing.

Asthenic spermatorrhœa depending on dis-

ease of the testicle is the exact converse of all this, in its pathological conditions. It is in fact, that state which results from the exhaustion of vital power, consequent on the excessive action attending the sthenic condition. The effects of the cessation of excitement to the testicles are a destruction of functional power, and, at the same time, less of substance. The seminal fluid first begins to alter in its character, becoming thin and watery, the quantity lessens, and the spermatozoa, which are the distinguishing characteristics of healthy semen, are no longer reproduced. The testicles diminish in size, on account of the absorption of their structure, and on examination will be found flaccid and shrivelled. The cremaster muscle, which, from its capability of contracting and relaxing, evidently fills a very important office in the healthy condition of the testicle, loses altogether its contractility, to which circumstance is due a very distressing symptom, namely, a sensation of weight and dragging pain in the loins. The veins, also lose their tone, and become swollen and tortuous, presenting that condition known as varicocele. Though these phenomena usually take place by gradual steps, the constitution does not readily submit to the destruction of one of its most important systems without making continual efforts for its restoration. These efforts, however, become one of the chief elements in the exhaustion of the nervous system, and in the production of a set of symptoms showing the highest degree of irritability, and cause the most injurious results to the health of the patient. Impotence follows as a natural consequence of this state of the organs, and is accompanied with complete disarrangement of all the other functions of the body.

The principle of *treatment* of asthenic spermatorrhœa, consists in restoring the tone of the general system, and in exciting and sustaining, as far as possible, the known actions of the affected parts. These, however, are not the only circumstances to be attended to in relation with the defective power of the organs. In the earlier stages, the seminal tubes will have taken on a condition of passive irritability—much more to be dreaded even than the inflammatory action of the sthenic forms of the disease, since it yields much less easily to treatment, and, in the weakened state of the system, wastes the power of life with greater rapidity. The medicines most serviceable under such circumstances are tonics, especially quinine and gentian, combined with the mineral

acids; the preparations of iron are sometimes very useful. For the special treatment I usually employ camphor, ergot of rye, and lupuline. The third indication is to be combated by local applications, as camphor lotion and warm fomentations; and, as is often the case if the irritability be accompanied with pain, much relief may be obtained from poultices containing poppy-heads, henbane leaves, hops, &c. Proper attention must, of course, be paid at the same time to the complications arising from the involvement of other portions of the generative system.—*Lanc.*

Trial for Malpractice.—From the *Daily Advertiser*, the following statement has been taken, which on account of its conciseness and accuracy, is worthy reading. If surgeons are not to be protected in the exercise of their poorly paid profession, but are to be subjected to prosecutions on the slightest whim of an irresponsible patient, whose object is to sponge money on false pretences, they had better give their attention to some business less liable to invite annoyance from the unprincipled, who seem to take pleasure in ruining those who serve them in their distresses.

The case of August Volmuth vs. John Hathaway, M. D. of Worcester, Mass., for alleged malpractice, which has been on trial in the Supreme Court for a few days past, was brought to a termination, Jan. 15th. H. W. Paine, Esq., counsel for the plaintiff, stated to the Court and jury, that the plaintiff's counsel were entirely satisfied that it would not be justifiable to proceed further in the case. They had supposed it to be a case of a single fracture, and had so opened it to the jury. This was the way in which it appeared to the German surgeons in New York, who saw it after thirteen weeks, not knowing its origin and intermediate history. It turns out to have been a compound fracture, of a difficult and complicated character, and the evidence shows that the treatment of it by Dr. Hathaway was careful and skilful, and that the slow progress and ultimate unsatisfactory result are not attributable to any want of attention, care or skill on his part.

Mr. Richard H. Dana, Jr., in behalf of Dr. Hathaway, thanked the counsel for the plaintiff for the handsome manner in which the case had been terminated. The remaining evidence for defendant would have added to the strength of the testimonial in favor of the assiduity, patience, skill and judgment exercised by Dr.

Hathaway; but, as a verdict was offered, the defendant could only accept it at once.

Judge Merrick said that the course pursued was highly creditable to the counsel for the plaintiff, and placed the case just where it should be placed. As it appeared to the German surgeons in New York, after the wound and two of the fractures had healed, they not knowing the original nature of the injury or the intermediate history of the treatment, the case deserved investigation and warranted the proper proceedings to ascertain the truth. As proved by the testimony of the defendant, and of the two other surgeons of Worcester, who saw the case in its origin and progress, it was one of difficulty and danger. And certainly, he might say that any young man, of any profession, might feel proud and gratified at such a testimonial to his skill, care and judgment, as had been given by the distinguished elders of his profession, who had pronounced their opinions upon the course of treatment pursued by Dr. Hathaway in this case.

A verdict was then recorded for the defendant.

MASS OF HAIR TAKEN FROM THE CYST OF AN OVARY.

Most authors mention the fact that bones, teeth and hair have been found in the cysts of the ovary. But the extraordinary quantity of hair contained in the one we are about to mention, and above all the means used for its extraction command especial interest.

Monsieur Coward cites the instance of a married woman aged twenty-four years, who for two years had frequent attacks of epilepsy, and was affected by a complete paralysis of the superior extremities. She had consulted the most eminent medical men, and finally gave up all hope both in physicians and medicine. Still, the symptoms becoming more serious, she called M. Coward the 11th of May, 1855. The most marked symptoms were vomitings, and severe pain in the head and intestines. She was emaciated and in a state of extreme prostration. The pulse very feeble and intermittent, being at 100; the skin was quite hot; the tongue feverish. The attention of M. Coward was directed towards the abdomen; he discovered a tumor in the right ovarian region, about the size of a large orange. Notwithstanding his treatment this tumor increased, the patient being unwilling

to submit to an operation. Still, on the 9th of March, 1856, M. Coward being again called to the patient, who experienced violent pain in the epigastric region, accompanied with great difficulty in respiration, thought that these symptoms were due to the pressure exercised upon the diaphragm by the liquid existing in the abdomen, and he again proposed puncture as the only means of affording relief. The patient at last consented. He drew off about fourteen pints of viscous and yellow pus, when the canula became obstructed. Thinking that this might arise from thickened matter, he introduced a stylet, and took out three or four hairs about five inches long. Others followed. To facilitate their exit, he enlarged the opening in the abdomen by means of a bistoury, and after some effort, extracted a compact mass of fine hairs, light-colored, elastic, and of different lengths; some of them being two inches in length. He took away nearly a handful. Since that time the patient has rapidly advanced, and M. Coward hopes to effect a permanent cure.—*Gaz des Hapitaux*.

Remedy for Rheumatism in Kilanea.—The natives of the Sandwich Islands, and especially in Kilanea, have a method of alleviating the pain of rheumatism, which is very effectual there, and might be advantageously introduced into these rheumatic regions. The patient lying recumbent, his muscles are kneaded by his knuckles of professed operators—beginning gently, and increasing the friction till relief follows. Headache and other incidental parts are admirably ameliorated by the same simple process. Ridged muscles relax under a persistent course of rubbing,—and even imperfectly developed limbs are raised in tone by the rubbing doctors here in the United States. By long, patient and persevering friction of the hands, they certainly bring about extraordinary restorations of semi-vitalized parts. Their unguents, lotions and pretended costly mixtures are all clap-trap. The rubbing is the remedy. Why not imitate this practice, instead of speaking of it with contempt? Practising medicine or surgery is one thing with some men, but curing the sick is another.

Bane of the North.—During the year 1856, 760 persons died in Boston of consumption, of which 405, or over one half, were females. This is a little over one-sixth of the whole number of deaths.

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE CHEAPEST AND MOST WHOLESOME KINDS OF FOOD.

In these hard times, when nearly all kind of provisions are assuming a price from twenty-five to fifty per cent. higher than ten or fifteen years ago, it becomes all people, particularly the laboring portion of the community, to enquire what are the *cheapest*, and at the same time, the most wholesome kinds of food. This inquiry is answered in a very clear, practical and common sense manner, in a communication from Samuel L. Dana, M. D., LL. D., to the Rev. H. Wood, Minister at large in Lowell. Such knowledge should be diffused among all classes of society. No greater benefit could be conferred upon the masses than the practical application of the principles here set forth, and there can be no higher authority, either chemical or physiological, in the United States, than that of Dr. Dana. Believing that an extended circulation and perusal of this article may do much good, will you publish it in the Medical World, and oblige.

Yours, NATHAN ALLEN, M. D.

Lowell, Mass.

LOWELL, JANUARY 5, 1857.

REV. HORATIO WOOD—

Dear Sir:—You have asked me what is the “amount of nutritious matter” in several of the common articles of food. The question could be easily answered, if nutrition depended on any one substance, or one group of substances, whose like chemical value would insure a common physiological relation.

It has been laid down, as a law of physiological chemistry, that all food serves two distinct purposes: one part builds up the body, is the blood-former, out of which comes all the animal tissues; while another part forms fat, and furnishes the fuel by which the animal heat is kept up through the process of breathing. This is the expression of an idea, not of an established law. It is a great idea. Though but an imperfect one of nutrition, its prosecution has led onward into many dark paths of the vital processes, by a new light.

Food articles contain flesh, blood and tissue-formers in proportion to their amount of nitrogen. Hence, that amount being capable of a definite determination by chemistry, expresses the relative value of food articles for these purposes. Yet, even here, there is a source

of error ; for the nitrogen of an animal body is dependent partly on its gelatine tissue, its sinew, gristle, etc., and it is doubtful whether this gelly is reconvertible by digestion into animal tissues. It is quite certain that there are from 3 to 5 per cent. of the nitrogenous matter of grain, which never take part in nutrition.

The blood and tissue-forming principle being thus determined, all the remainder is starchy principle, gum, fat, or sugar and water, with occasionally a portion of pure woody fibre, rarely ministering to the wants of nutrition. These substances are the fuel-formers, and out of which fat may be formed, when the food article does not contain sufficient preformed. Here again there is a source of error, for fat is formed in the process of nutrition out of the blood-forming elements, and beside, this assigns a low and subordinate office to fat. It is as essential as blood. Here, then, in this view, we have the "nutritive power" dependant mainly on articles containing nitrogen, aided by articles which contain none. Sometimes one and sometimes the other class has preponderated in the estimate made of the value of an article for food, and tables expressing this value have been constructed as follows :—

Taking wheat flour as the unit, Boussingault arranges thus the proportion based on nitrogen, and any substance in the state of dry powder is called *meal* :

Wheat flour, good qual.	100	contains	65	to	66	parts in	100	pure starch.
Wheat,	108	"	53	"	56	"	"	"
Barley meal,	119	"	64	"	65	"	"	"
Barley,	130	"	37	"	37	"	"	"
Rye,	111	"	44	"	47	"	"	"
Buckwheat,	108	"	43	"	44	"	"	"
Indian Corn,	138	"	65	"	66	"	"	"
Rice,	171	"	85	"	86	"	"	"
Peas,	69	"	38	"	39	"	"	"
White Beans,	56	"	37	"	38	"	"	"
Cabbages fresh,	810							
" meal,	83							
Potatoes,	613							
" meal,	83							
Carrots,	757							
" meal,	5							
Turnips,	1335							

The figures in the column on the right hand I have added, to show what the relative value would be, calculated on pure starch.

Observation had shown that there existed a certain relation between the blood-forming and heat-forming elements. Liebig has constructed the following table showing this relation. From chemical analysis it was evident that fat and starch would generate heat differently, according to their amount of oxygen. Ten parts of fat are equal to twenty-four of starch in generating heat ; and grape and milk sugar,

free from water, are about equal in heating power to starch.

For every ten parts of blood and tissue-formers there are heat-formers—									
In Wheat flour,	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
" Rye meal,	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
" Oatmeal,	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
" Buckwheat,	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130
" Barley,	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
" Rice,	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	123
" White potato,	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86
" Blue do.	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130

The proportion which is common to wheat, rye, oats and barley, is, reduced to lowest terms — 1 of blood-former to 4.7 heat-former. This is just the proportion which the rations of a regiment of soldiers, fed on meat, bread, vegetables, with peas and beans, beer, brandy and fat, afforded, on the most careful experimentation. It may be assumed, therefore, that the grains contain these blood-forming and heat-forming elements in a proportion well adapted to the wants of laboring and active men.

I have not considered animal food, as it formed no part of your question. I may say, however, that the amount of blood-forming principle in flesh or muscular fibre, is the same nearly throughout the whole animal kingdom. The flesh of fish contains the same absolute amount of nutrient matter as that of the ox. Oysters contain far less, but are more easily digested,—hence their frequent prescription to invalids.

It would appear, then, that your question is answered by these tables. But after all the labor expended on them they furnish little practical information. They lose sight of the great fact that life cannot long be maintained by food which fulfils a part only of the process of nutrition. An animal fed on that only which forms blood and tissue, dies of starvation ; so dies the animal fed only on "fuel-formers ;" so dies the animal fed on both these, if deprived, at the same time, of certain chemical salts, as common salt and compounds of sulphur and phosphorus, potash, soda, lime, magnesia and iron. Even fed on food containing all these three classes of substances, the animal dies of starvation, unless allowed a certain proportion of ready formed fat, in addition to that which may be formed out of the other elements of his food. Hence it is seen that the nutrient quality of any substance depends on the coöperation of some other body, and its nutrient value is wholly relative.

Let us turn to Nature. She has furnished us with a type of all food. She has taught us the necessity of a mixed food. All men instinctively follow her teaching. Her type food

is milk. Milk contains the essentials of four great groups of substances, on which nutrition in its widest sense depends. What is this wide sense? It comprehends all that is essential for the performance of the vital functions, all that is required for the growth of the body, all that is demanded for the exertion of new forces or bodily duties according to the age and sex, all that pertains to the removal of matter which has performed its office in the system. Nutrition comprehends secretion and excretion.

Milk furnishes all these requirements, and its elements, though varying in their proportions according to the kind of animal and the age of the suckling, are yet ever fixed and invariable under like circumstances. The elements of milk are —

1. *Curd*. — This represents the “blood-formers” of the tables above. All the nitrogen of milk resides in its curd; so does sulphur. Its amount gradually increases with the age of the suckling.

2. *Fat or Butter*. — This element is the least variable in its proportions, at least in woman, during all the period of nursing. This is a significant fact.

3. *Sugar*. — It is a peculiar form of sugar, and represents the “fuel-formers.” Its amount diminishes as the suckling grows older.

4. *Salts*. — These are both soluble and insoluble. The last consist chiefly of the earth of bones, and increase in quantity with the age of the suckling. The soluble salts afford potash and soda, and phosphoric acid.

Such are the substances which nature has prepared for our first food — a mixture of four groups of substances — not served up by rule of thumb, or no rule, but generally in certain definite proportions, which show in woman's milk about 10 parts of blood-forming substance; 10 parts fat; 20 parts sugar; 0.6 salts. Very different indeed from those proportions indicated by the tables before quoted, and if we would imitate this best mixture we must alter them so as best to suit the requirements of advancing age.

If we examine the several substances which are the foundation on which all changes of animal matter depend, we shall find them composed of four groups, represented by the four classes of elements of milk.

There are in vegetables and animals certain common and well-known substances termed albumen, fibrin, casein, gluten and legumin. These are all alike chemically constituted. They all contain nitrogen. They may be termed albuminous principles. If there is any

substance which may claim precedence in the animal economy, it is albumen. It is found largely in the blood, in all animal juices which are immediately concerned in the nutrition of organs. It consolidates and forms gristle, sinew, membrane, muscle, hoofs, horns, nails. Albumen forms the most delicate structures, and is found in the nerve tubes. We have, then, in the solids of the animal body, a group of substances, corresponding to the curd element of milk, which may be termed the albuminous.

In the second group may be placed fat. It performs manifold offices in the animal system. Mechanically it is a lubricant. It is part and parcel of all the chemical changes which the body undergoes. It is essential to the process of digestion, which occurs after the food has passed from the stomach. Its changes result in production of colorless blood-globules. It predisposes the animal body to form cells in conjunction with albuminous matter. No cell is formed independently of fat. When the food does not furnish albumen for the investing cell for fat, a surrounding substance is derived from the flesh, and when the flesh fails, the fat accumulates in the blood and juices. Fat ever ends to form new cells, or to collect in cells ready formed; hence the “fat liver” of fattening animals. Who may say after this, that fat is only a fuel-former? It has already been stated that fat may be formed out of albuminous substances, and it is abundantly formed out of the next or third.

Starch and Sugar group. The principal elements of this group are milk-sugar, grape-sugar and starch-gum. These last are derived from starchy food. They never form a part of the animal tissues, but perform an important office in all the changes of those tissues. Sugar is not less important in these changes, than are albumen and fat. It is found in nearly all animal fluids which pertain to nutrition, in blood, lymph, white of eggs, in the intestines of herbivorous and omnivorous, and even in those of carnivorous animals, formed doubtless from albuminous food in the liver of the latter. Milk-sugar, by its decomposition, forms lactic acid, the acid of sour milk, and this free acid plays no small part in nutrition. Sugar in all its forms, and gum, contribute largely to the formation of fat, whose functions are so various.

Lastly in the animal body there is a fourth group, composed of chemical salts, the same as found in milk. Thus we are made acquainted with the substances on which vital changes depend. We eat to afford materials for these

changes. We eat to be nourished, — nourished in the sense which has been defined. It is clear that the waste of anything essential to life, and all its healthy functions, must be supplied by a like substance. What, then, can be plainer than this, — food will be nutritious in proportion as it contains the nutrient elements of the four groups duly mixed. Articles of food are to be distinguished from nutrient elements; their relative value depends on these. If a table of these relative values is to be constructed, the quality of the nutrient element on which depends its digestibility and the special requirements of the system, will form an appendage to such tables. Let us now class some of our common articles of food on the rational system which has been suggested. It is not to be forgotten, that we owe the data on which such a table may be formed, to patient chemical analysis, that most wearisome labor, coupled with delicate tact and manipulation to which the mind can be subjected.

Table of the relative value of articles of food, arranged according to their proportions of nutrient matter in each of the four groups of elements concerned in vital changes.

In 100 pounds of	Standard water.	Husk or woody fibre.	1st Group. Albuminous substances.	2d Group. Fats.	3d Group. Starch and Sugar.	4th Group. Salts.
GRAINS—						
Wheat,	15	15	10 to 19	2 to 4	55	2
Barley,	15	15	12 to 15	2 to 3	60	3
Oats,	16	20	14 to 19	5 to 7	60	4
Rye,	12	10 to 20	10 to 15	3 to 4	60	2
Indian Corn,	14	6	12	5 to 9	70	1½
Buckwheat,	15	25	8	0.4	50	4
Rice,	13	3	7	0.7	75	0½
POD PLANTS—						
Beans,	14	8 to 11	24 to 28	2 to 3	40	3
Peas,	14	9	24	2.1	50	3
ROOTS—						
Potato,	75	4	2.0	0.3	18	to 1½
Turnip,	88	2	1.5	0.3	9	to 4½
Carrot,	85	3	1.5	0.4	10	1½ to 2
Beet, (mangold wurtzel)	85	2	2	00	11	to 1
Long red,	85	3.03	0.48	00	10.36	1½
Short red,	85	3.31	0.26	00	12.46	.75
Sugar beet,	85	2		0.35	13	
Parsnip,	80	1½	2.5	00	16	½
LEAF—						
Cabbage,			30 to 35	00		
MEAL—						
Wheat flour,	10.33		9.70	2	68 Starch 5.85 Sug. 4.12 Gum	
Rye meal,	14.50	4.63	8.97	3	66 54 Stch 2.56 Sug. 9.40 Gum	2
Barley meal,	14		14	2	68	2
Oat meal,	14		18	6	62	
Wheat bran,	18.1	55	19.3	4.7	.6	7.3

What an amount of nutritive matter is afforded by the oat! No part of it useless. Its albuminous portion allies it to peas and beans—its starch equals that of fine wheat flour, its fat far exceeds that of any other cereal grain, and is equalled only by that of our Indian corn. It would seem as if nature in-

tended oat meal gruel as the food to succeed milk when the child is weaned. It is still generally considered the food for invalids, but unfortunately it forms a popular article of diet in Scotland only. It is praise enough that it is a favorite with a people distinguished for shrewd common sense. Oat meal is placed near bran, so that the eye may at once see how wheat is robbed of its nutritive value by those who brand its flour as "extra" fine.

It is well known that the fatty matter of the grains resides chiefly in the bran; so does a large portion of the salts. By mealing, therefore, the composition of the grain no longer represents the composition of the meal, and this has an important influence on the nutritive power, as is above seen. "It is written man shall not live by bread alone." It may be added, he cannot, if his bread is made of the finest wheat flour. It is a great error in diet, this refined fine flour, as the composition of bran, thus separated, teaches.

Casting the eye over the foregoing table, it is seen that the grains, the pod plants, the roots, differ widely in nutritive power, viewed in the mass. They all contain a portion of the four groups of nutrient substances, yet there are very wide differences.

The *grains* contain the third, or starch and sugar group, chiefly with such an admixture of the first, or albuminous group, as eminently fits these for nutrition.

The *pod plants*, while still retaining starch as the predominating ingredient, have a very large proportion of the albuminous group. The pod plants, peas and beans, approach, in this latter respect, animal substances.

The *roots* contain over 5-6 of their weight of water; the remainder is composed almost wholly of the ingredients of the group — starch, little else.

Rice alone forms an exception to the grains, and, as an article of diet, must be ranked below potato meal. Practically in navy rations, it is found that 3 1-2 lbs. of rice are equivalent to 1 lb. of beans. The day, we trust, is not far from dawning, when rice shall give place to oat meal. Rice and potatoes are among the lowest articles in our scale. Yet, we have accounts of whole races of men subsisting on these articles, the national diet. We forget that potatoes imply buttermilk and cabbage, with salt herring; and we are assured that the rice eaters in India add to their diet "*kari*," a compound of meat, fish and vegetables, which is boiled with the rice. Cabbage, as we have seen, contains a very large propor-

tion of the albuminous group; hence it is an excellent addition to the starchy potato. No healthier, or, for its cost, richer nutrient dish can be named than the "kol-cannon" of the Irish—boiled and mashed potatoes and cabbage, seasoned with pork fat, pepper and salt, a truly savory dish. Immense bulks of rice and potatoes must be consumed, when used as the main food articles. Hence, rice and potato eaters are all pot-bellied. These articles have only a very small portion of fat or oil; hence instinct has lead to supplying this by such fatty articles as can be best obtained. Instinct, observation and experience have led, also, to the addition of fat to peas and beans. These contain a larger proportion of albuminous nourishment than any other food article, far exceeding that found in animal food. The nutrient albuminous principle is found in peas and beans in the form allied to curd of milk, to skim-milk cheese. In this state it tends to produce costiveness, an evil overcome by adding to peas and beans a portion of fat. Pork and beans! The concentration of nutrient diet! Let it be interchanged with "kol-cannon," or suet-pudding—sweetening the last with molasses. This last is one of the best nourishers, peculiar to, and almost wholly composed of, chemical constituents of the third group, with a reasonable tincture of the first. Who can sound the praises of molasses as an article of diet? Why, the very word is to be pronounced with the tip of the tongue as Leigh Hunt said of "lucent syrup tinct with cinnamon." Molasses, like wit, is not only fat within itself, but the cause that fat is in other things. Who so fat and sleek as the African in the sugar season? What article of diet so well, so cheaply affords the material for fat, the presiding Genius in nutrition, as molasses? It performs all the functions which belong to the nutrients of our third group of nourishers.

As long, therefore, as oat-meal cake supports life better than the wheaten loaf of finest flour; as long as bean porridge, the wholesome breakfast of the "golden days of good Queen Bess," may be cooked; as long as pea soup, with its garniture of potatoes, carrots and onions, which are more than a relish, and which ought to have graced our *table* as nourishment of high order, may be gently simmered by the smallest fire; as long as beans may be baked, and moistened lusciously with a bit of pork fat, rendered toothsome by molasses; as long as gems of suet may be "battered" into corn meal pudding, where they sparkle like drops of honey-dew enclosed in trembling jelly; so

long Nature assures us that she spreads her daily board with that same wise forecast, with which she furnishes forth the banquet of milk, which waits and welcomes the new-born babe.

EXCORIATED OR NURSING SORE NIPPLES.

MR. EDITOR:—In a recent number of the Medical World I find an inquiry as to the best remedy for this at times very troublesome affection.

In reply I would say that the *Tincture of Benzoin* has proved to me the most useful of all recommended for this purpose. I apply it locally with a camel's-hair brush; it forms a thin coating, like gutta-percha, which is removed by the infant in nursing, and which need not be washed off before nursing.

For ordinary cases, frequent ablutions of dilute Tincture of *Arnica montana* will be sufficient.

I. W. Fox, M. D.

Covington, Ky., Jan. 12, 1857.

CORONERS' INQUEST.

BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D., CORONER FOR THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

Lois Gaum was assaulted by three Germans, on the evening of January 13th, 1857, at the corner of Carver and Eliot streets, and so severely beaten that he died the following evening at 10 o'clock. Gaum never spoke after the assault.

It appeared in evidence at the inquest, that a German by the name of Jacob Wifhler had been indicted for keeping a house of "ill-fame" some three months since, and that Gaum was then a witness against him. Wifhler had said that he would "lick Gaum"—that he had already paid thirty-five dollars, and he would pay twenty more for some one to "lick Gaum."

Gaum was carried to his home, No. 3 Oxford place, and when it appeared that he would die, Coroner Cornell was called to see him. After his death, the Coroner ordered a jury of "Inquest" to be summoned, and directed Dr. Wm. H. Page to make an *autopsy* of the body of Gaum. It was found upon the *post mortem* examination, that Gaum died from *effusion* upon the brain, which resulted from a blow over the right eye.

The jury, after a careful examination of a large number of witnesses, brought in the following *Verdict*—"That Lois Gaum came to his death, on Wednesday, the 14th day of Jan-

uary, 1857, about 10 o'clock, P. M., at No. 3 Oxford Place, in Boston, from the effect of blows premeditated and inflicted upon him, on the 13th of January, 1857, by Jacob Wifhler, Conrad Ruby, John Kahler and Wm. Brumme."

(Signed,) Wm. M. Cornell, Coroner. Jurors, Wm. D. Eaton, Foreman; Wm. Bushnell, Wm. A. Holland, H. Jameson, John S. Hunt, Joshua Foster.

Gaum was 26 years of age, and left a wife and one child. This was a most foul and cruel murder, and three of the perpetrators of the atrocious deed are now in the Jail of Suffolk County awaiting the action of the Grand Jury.

Wifhler, the instigator of the murder, has not yet been arrested, but the police are in pursuit of him. The Mayor and Aldermen of Boston ought to offer a reward for the arrest of the villain.

(For The Medical World.)

SCARLET FEVER AND BELLADONA AGAIN.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—A writer in your journal of Jan. 14, No. 16, p. 442, attempts to give what he calls "a slight handling," to views which have been expressed on this subject. My only object now is, to say to this Mr. A. B., that if he will call at my office, 630 Washington street, Boston, I will allow him to read "those twenty-eight pages," and he can then "know," for himself, "where Dr. Porcher got his information from" and "whether he has mentioned Hahnemann's name."

A. B. then says, "the best popular article on Belladonna, which I have seen of late, appeared in the Boston Traveller of January 1st; and, queer enough, the gentleman did not give his name or residence."

Query, was it any more "queer" that that gentleman should give neither his name nor residence, than that A. B. should give neither his name nor residence? It seems to me, it was not quite so "queer" for that gentleman to conceal his name, as it was for this Mr. A. B. (no body knows who he is, or where he resides) to conceal his own name, when his chief object seemed to be to reply to the communications of two gentlemen, one in No. 13, and the other in No. 14, of your Journal, both of whom signed their names to their articles. It reminded me of the expression of Cowper, of certain persons, who

"Hate their own likeness in a brother's face."

I hope he will read "those twenty-eight pages," before he writes again, and then not be so "queer" as to conceal his name, though doubtless he is a very worthy man. But it is always desirable to know by *whom* we are criticised, especially when writing under our own name.

WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

FLOATING FACTS.

[Presuming these weekly columns of Floating Facts may be useful to those collecting materials for publications at a future period on physiological subjects,—medicine, surgery, chemistry, midwifery, and other branches of knowledge which belong to a course of professional reading,—we have adopted this plan of furnishing important matter in the fewest words.

In preparing lectures, writing communications for journals, either literary or scientific, an immense amount of matter for strengthening an argument, illustrating propositions, and giving an interest to a variety of topics within the legitimate range of medical studies, may be found in these paragraphs. They are useful for reference, and are certainly more or less instructive, independent of the pleasure derived from the facts they present. We therefore propose to continue this particular feature of THE MEDICAL WORLD, till a majority of its patrons request an alteration.]

Vital Force.—Dr. Geo. Atkins, of Charlestown, Mass., extracted a needle from the leg of a child, January 7th, which appeared to have been introduced in this wise:—

One year ago, last October, the child was thrown into a fit by what appeared to be a stoppage in the stomach, and at that time was supposed to be caused by worms; but about six months afterwards the parents were told by the spirits that the fit was caused by the child swallowing a needle at the time. This was doubted by them; but the removal of the needle itself, which, at the time of extraction, was deeply imbedded in the flesh, is strong proof that such was the case. A little girl in Waterville, Ct., more than a year ago swallowed a needle, and on New Year's Day it came out through her knee.

Scientific Merit acknowledged.—Dr. D. Jongh.—The King of the Belgians has conferred the dignity of a Knight of the Red Order of Leopold upon this gentleman, whose name is so favorably associated with his useful researches into the nature and properties of Cod Liver Oil. It may be recollected that the same sovereign, and also the King of the Netherlands, some time since awarded to Dr. De Jongh Medals of Merit, in approval of the services rendered by his scientific and practical investigations.

Medical Treatment at Wallawalla.—Com. Wilkes, of the celebrated Exploring Expedition, relates the following method of managing a patient at Wallawalla. A boy was lying on his back, very ill and in the last stages, apparently, of disease. Over him stood a medicine woman, an old, haggard-looking squaw, who was singing violently, accompanied by about a dozen men and boys beating time on sticks. She bent over the invalid, making singular grimaces. Baring his chest, she pretended by actions to be scooping out the malady. Then falling on her knees, an effort was made to draw out the bad spirit with both hands. At evening she was much exhausted, but being held by a rope over the patient, she commenced sucking his neck. The next day, the sucking operation was transferred to the chest. Without further details, some of which would be disgusting, suffice it, the boy began to improve, and finally was able to sit up. She predicted a perfect restoration, but unfortunately the final result is unknown. The fee for a cure was to be a basket of dried salmon and a blanket, which is far better compensation than many a skilful physician gets for his services in New England, while the treatment is no more ridiculous than many kinds of medication pursued by ignorant medical pretenders all over the country.

Quarantine.—The people of the New Jersey side are anxious to have the quarantine establishment at Staten Island removed to Sandy Hook. They stand in fear of concentrated disease on their border. It is more astonishing that the merchants of New York are tamely submitting to the enormous tax imposed upon them by the oppressive quarantine laws of the State.

A Mrs. Buckman, believed to have been beaten to death by a brutal husband, seems to have been hurried to the grave to conceal the crime. When the husband was arrested, he presented a certificate, signed B. K. Masters, M. D., asserting that the woman died of natural causes and authorizing her burial. The New York Times asks indignantly, "*Who is Dr. Masters, who thus ignorantly or wilfully lends his aid to cover up a deed of murder?*"

Anti-quackery in Russia.—At a meeting of medical men held recently in France, a special vote of thanks, amidst intense excitement and opposition, as well as an honorary diploma of fellowship, were voted to the Czar Alexander II., for his recent remarkable ukase against quacks.

Average Duration of Human Life.—Dr. Buchanan, in a recent lecture before the Mechanics' Institute at Cincinnati, said that, in the latter part of the sixteenth century, one half of all who were born died under five years of age; the average longevity of the whole population was but eighteen years. In the seventeenth century one half the population died under twelve years. But in the first sixty years of the eighteenth century, one half of the population lived over twenty-seven years. In the latter forty years, one half exceeded thirty-two years of age. At the beginning of the present century one half exceeded forty years; and from 1838 to 1845 one half exceeded forty-three. The average longevity at these successive periods has been increased from eighteen years in the sixteenth century up to 43.7 by the last reports.

Marriages in Boston in 1856.—During the year 1856, the registrar issued certificates of intentions of marriage to 3013 parties. In 1855, 3061 certificates were issued. Decrease in 1856, (leap year,) 48. The oldest person married was aged 72; it was his fourth marriage, his intended being 39.

A lawyer of Concord, N. H., sixty-seven years of age, obtained a certificate of his intention to make a second marriage, and several other bridegrooms were over sixty. The youngest female married was under fifteen, and another was about fifteen. There were a considerable number of third marriages. In a number of cases the age of the bridegroom was double that of the bride. There were also four or five marriages of colored men with white women, but not a case of the marriage of a white male with a colored female.

Prolific.—Mr. Jesse Harbor, of Concord Township, Ohio, is the father of thirty children. He is in his seventy-second year, was one of the early pioneer settlers of the country, and is remarkably active for a man of his years, as will readily be inferred. He has been married twice. By his first wife he had thirteen children, twelve of whom he raised. By his second wife, who is forty-two years of age, he has seventeen children, making THIRTY in all!

Capt. Edward Wilder, of Hingham, Mass., who died about five-and-twenty years ago, had twenty-one children by one wife, seventeen of whom were daughters, who all grew up to womanhood.

Mortality of New York in 1856.—Though the population of the city has increased by a large per centage during the last few years, the mortality, for the last two or three, has fallen off. The total number of deaths the past year was 21,263, being about 1,000 less than in 1855, and 6,000 less than 1854. Consumption, as usual, carried off the largest number, its victims reaching 2,432. Fevers of various kinds proved fatal to 2,020; inflammation to 1,878; convulsions to 1,489; and marasmus to 1,422; 1,535 were still-born; dropsy included 1,135 in its catalogue. Of those who died, 15,966 were natives of the United States; 5,133 foreigners; 430 colored, and 134 unknown.

Hospital for Inebriates.—The plan of a hospital for inebriates is to be seriously tried in New York. A petition, signed by several hundred physicians, including many who have themselves contributed to the object, has been presented to the Legislature for the aid of the State. We think the plan is highly praiseworthy. In many cases drunkenness is as much a disease as half the complaints that are treated medically, and the drunkard should be regarded as a patient, not as a criminal. Efforts have been made in Massachusetts, but without success, to establish an institution of the kind here proposed. People of means, rather object to finding funds for the support of men who have voluntarily ruined themselves by intemperance. And besides, there is no certainty that they would not return to their degrading habits, whenever permitted, to leave the inebriates' hospital.

Female Longevity.—Miss Elizabeth Gray, who died in Edinburgh in April, 1856, at the age of 108 years, having been born in May, 1748, and who at the census of 1851 was then the oldest person in that city, is said to have been, at her death, the oldest in Scotland. Her oldest brother died in 1728, twenty years before her birth, and her father in 1755. So that she survived her father 101 years, and (which is so much more extraordinary that it may not again occur in a century) her brother died 128 years before her. She long taught school in her native city, and a gentleman now resident in London, says he attended it 71 years ago.

Value of Insects.—Every pound of cochineal contains 70,000 insects boiled to death, and from 600,000 to 700,000 pounds are annually brought to Europe for scarlet and crimson dyes.

Fluorine in the Blood.—M. Nichols, chemist, of Nancy, says that he has found fluorine in the blood; not only in human blood, but also in that of several mammalia, as the sheep, dog, ox, besides in some birds, viz., the turkey, duck, goose and hen. It had previously been detected in the bones. He continues—"results, concordant, seem to give to fluorine an importance which it has not yet had in medicine and physiology." Further, he continues, "it is evident that fluorine plays in the blood and other liquids of the system, a physiological part. Its absence or diminution must constitute of itself, a state of disease—a species of chlorose from the absence of fluorine, analogous to the chlorose from the absence of iron. This disease may be detected, no doubt, by a chemical examination of the urine, or saliva, and may be met by a fluorid preparation."

Urea in Animals.—Prof. Bechamp, at the school of Pharmacy, Strasbourg, France, has succeeded in changing albumine fibrin and gluten into urea, by a slow combination produced by means of a solution of permanganate of potash, at a temperature of about 80°. C. M. Picard, a physiologist of the same city, has extended his inquiries in reference to the presence of urea in the blood and its diffusion through the system. Both Dumas and Proost found it in the blood after the removal of the kidneys—and the logical conclusion is, that those organs removed urea from the body, but do not produce it. Some curious experiments on the renal artery of a dog seem to determine this point, which thirty years ago stood thus—"the kidneys secrete urea." This, therefore, is physiological progress.

Mortality of Baltimore in 1856.—The number of deaths in Baltimore, Md., during the past year, was 2,888 males and 2,780 females, making an aggregate of 5,668; of which number 957 were colored, 880 free, and 77 slaves. Of the above number seven were over the age of 100 years.

Iguana Gigantica.—A large yam was recently exhibited at the Academy of Science, Paris, which was 8 feet 2 inches long, 2 feet 9 inches in circumference, and weighed 178 English pounds. It was sent from the province of Rio Janeiro, Brazil, and the letter by which it was accompanied stated a much larger one would have been sent if the inland conveyance to the port had been less expensive.

Galvano Caustic.—In France they seem to be doing novel things with electricity. By the assistance of galvanism, M. Amussat, and particularly M. Middendorss have actually used its heating effects as a caustic in arresting hemorrhages from small vessels. Differently fashioned instruments are employed to direct the current to the point where it is desired. Energetic action can be produced at pleasure, even deep down among the muscles, where neither the bistoury nor common cautery could go. Inflammation may thus be induced wherever a sluggish state requires vitalizing in any tissue. It is quite a new power in the hands of the surgical operator.

The Stereoscope.—Mr. Elliot writes, in correction of the statement that appeared recently, to the effect that Sir D. Brewster attributed to him the invention of the stereoscope. He says, "To the invention of the instrument generally I lay no claim; for, however early the period at which I may have contemplated the construction of it, the rightful claimant of every discovery is the first publisher of it, and, in this case, that is Professor Wheatstone. The great improvement of the instrument, by the introduction of the lenses, giving it its present convenient and popular form, is due to Sir David Brewster himself."

Surgical Medals.—Dr. Valentine Mott has provided three medals, for which the medical students in the New York University are invited to compete, and which will be distributed yearly at the spring commencements. The first is a gold medal, about the size of a \$20 piece, which is to be given to the student who makes the best anatomical-surgical preparation of any part of the human subject; a silver medal of the same size for the second best; and a bronze medal for the student who will prepare the best report of any case that occurs in the clinics of the University.

Hydrophobia.—Mrs. Nicholas Campbell, of the Notch, near Paterson, N. J., who was bitten by a cat some three months since, died on Tuesday in a horribly raving state, from hydrophobia. She did not suffer any inconvenience till about a month ago, since which she has endured very much agony. At times she has been sensible of her condition, and at other times raving mad. During the last four weeks she has eaten but a small quantity of food, and even that was lapped up as if by a cat.

A Case of Somnambulism.—On New Year's night there was a ball at one of the taverns in Whitney's Point, N. Y., all were enjoying themselves in a dance—the band were pouring forth their joyous notes—when the company were startled by the appearance of a lad of about fifteen years, with nothing on but his night gown, who marched from one end of the hall to the other, and took a seat by the side of the musicians, apparently looking on and enjoying the scene before him; but on observing the young man more closely, it was discovered that he was asleep, and had walked from his father's (Mr. Taft) house to the ball-room in a somnambulant state. He was taken home before he was awaked.

Voracity of a Shark.—A shark was recently captured at New Orleans, measuring seventeen feet eleven inches in length, and nine feet in circumference. He had seven rows of teeth, three of the rows being almost hidden in the upper gums. His liver exactly filled up a beef barrel. In his paunch was found the body of a man in a half decomposed state. So far as could be judged, the corpse was that of a well-dressed man of medium size—shirt white, with pearl buttons, coarse silk undershirt, cotton socks and shoes nearly new.

Anatomical Models of Leather.—Dr. H. D. Schmidt, a German, residing in Philadelphia, has made several uncommonly beautiful and useful enlarged models for the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, of leather. The distribution of the sympathetic nerve, the superficial nerves of the body, and the anatomy of the brain, are represented to be very astonishing achievements, both scientifically and artistically considered.

Artificial Milk.—It is now manufactured quite extensively in France, from bones! It is made by putting a certain weight of bones with a little meat, with six times the weight of water, in a Papin's digester. Being sealed hermetically, and raising the heat to 140° F., in forty minutes, from a stopcock, a white liquid comes out. It is nutritious, being a kind of broth, but has really none of the chemical properties of milk.

Mortality.—In the town of Essex, Mass., during the past year, there were 26 deaths—3 of which were of persons between the ages of 80 and 90, 1 between 90 and 100, and 1 of the age of 100.

Rare Food.—The introduction of horse-flesh into the Parisian cuisine has led to a further innovation in the same direction; a society has been formed in Paris for promoting the use of asses' flesh as human food. The society maintains that it is the "most delicious in existence," and strengthens itself with the reflection that Macænas and Cardinal Dupont, both distinguished gourmands, "were passionately fond of the flesh of young asses." No doubt all the members are asses!

Sickness of the Poor.—In one single week, at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn road, London, ending Nov. 29th, 2,309 patients sought medical assistance. It only shows that harassed minds, growing out of anxiety with reference to the daily necessities of life, unsuitable clothing, improper sleeping accommodations, old, secluded, rickety dwellings, the miseries of filth and vermin, in connection with an unrecorded catalogue of miseries which accompany poverty in the city of London, are a perpetual source of physical suffering and premature death.

Scientific Merit.—The Copley Medal, of the past year, has been awarded to Prof. Milne Edwards, of Paris, for his brilliant researches in comparative anatomy and zoology. Another to Prof. W. Thomson, of Glasgow, Scotland, for his various physical researches relating to electricity, in reference to the motive power of heat. Prof. Louis Pasteur, of Lille, had the Rumford medal for his discovery of the nature of *racemie* acid and its relation to polarized light.

Value of Science.—Orange or lemon juice left upon a knife, or other piece of iron, will in a few days produce a stain so nearly resembling that caused by blood as to deceive the most careful observer; and not many years ago, in Paris, a man was nearly convicted of murder, owing to a knife being found in his possession, stained with what was pronounced by several witnesses to be blood, but afterwards discovered to be simply *lime juice*.

Bite of a Cat.—At London, a few weeks since, a man was playing with a cat, when the animal seized one of his fingers with its teeth so tightly that he had great difficulty in shaking it off. At night he became unwell, and afterwards went into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where the injured finger mortified, and he died.

Melancholy Mistake.—Jan. 21. A terrible tragedy occurred. A druggist filled a prescription ordered by Dr. Arnold, a German physician, for a child. The child took the medicine and died immediately. Arnold took the remainder of the medicine to the druggist, and told him he had made a fatal mistake. The druggist persisted that the medicine was right, and, to show his confidence in his correctness, he swallowed a portion himself. He was immediately attacked with horrible convulsions, and died in five minutes. The doctor, who merely tasted the preparation and spit it from his mouth, was also attacked, and with difficulty saved. The affair occasioned much excitement in Baltimore.

The druggist had mixed cyannuret of potassium with lemon juice, developing enough prussic acid in the preparation to have killed three hundred people.

Sea-Sickness.—Dr. Landerer, at Athens, announces that he has discovered a sovereign specific against sea-sickness. His remedy is to give from ten to twelve drops of chloroform in water. The chloroform, in most cases, removes nausea, and persons who have taken the remedy soon become able to stand up and get accustomed to the movement of the vessel. Should the sickness return, a fresh dose is to be taken.

Centenary.—Mr. Nazon, the Protestant minister of St. Affrique, Aveyron, recently died at the age of one hundred years. He had officiated seventy-five years. His faculties were unimpaired to the last remaining moment of life.

Irish Giants.—Shaun Nabontree, a modern Goliath, lately died at Connemara, in Ireland. He was a man of unusual stature, to wit, seven feet in height, and weighing over twenty stone. His family, the Joyces, has been for many years one of the wonders of Connemara. He died at the age of seventy, and has left four stalwart sons.

Opium-Eating.—A young and interesting girl who is an inmate of the Cincinnati Commercial Hospital, had been so habituated to the use of opium, that when she was committed to the hospital, she was in the habit of taking nearly an ounce a day. The quantity of the stimulus has been gradually reduced, but the physicians are obliged to give her about four ounces of spirits daily.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

"Dr. Chaffee, a member of the Committee on Patents, from Massachusetts, has lately reported a bill to pass the House of Representatives, which provides for the very general reduction of fees payable by foreigners who desire to take out American patents."

Dr. Kane has almost recovered the use of his leg, which was paralyzed, and his arm is commencing to show signs of vitality. He contemplates returning home, if his health still improves, in the Quaker City, which was to leave Havana on the 12th inst. Dr. Horner, Surgeon of the Wabash, and Dr. Roverand, a celebrated physician of Havana, were his physicians, and admirably treated his case.

Dr. G. W. F. Mellen has been restored to such a degree of health that he will resume his occupation as a chemist in Boston.

Dr. Mann, of Sterling, Mass., is spoken of in the transactions of the Disunion Convention at Worcester.

Dr. William E. Coale, of Boston, has been elected President of the Scots Charitable Association.

An effort is making in New York to organize a Women's Hospital. There is one already, under the care of Dr. Marion Sims, but the new project contemplates placing the Women's Hospital entirely under the control of women.

A startling event took place in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the arrest of a foreign doctor, who has a very extensive practice among the higher classes, on a charge of wilfully poisoning three sisters, and forging a will by which he became their heir. Having attempted to raise money on the security of this supposititious will, it fell into the hands of a law agent in the confidence of these unfortunate ladies, who instantly saw that the whole was a counterfeit. One sister still lingers, and the bodies of the two others will be exhumed.

It is stated in Dr. Hall's Journal of Health, that there are forty thousand physicians in the United States.

An address was delivered by Professor Huntington, before the Massachusetts Mechanic's Charitable Association, in September last, on the *Hands, Brain, and Heart*, which has been thought by some to be far superior to the Bridgewater treatise on the Human Hand, written by that great notability, Sir Charles Bell.

Dr. Joseph LeConte, of the University of

Georgia, is the author of a learned and instructive article in the American Journal of Science and Arts, on the *Agency of the Gulf Stream in the formation of the Peninsula and Keys of Georgia*,—which was read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Albany, in August last.

Dr. Gray, Professor of Botany, at Cambridge, continues in the last number of the American Journal, his profound paper on the Statistics of the Flora of the Northern United States.

Dr. R. Green, an English physician, exhibited a curious and beautiful machine to the British Association, at the last meeting, invented by himself, for polishing the specula of reflecting telescopes.

In the eighth volume of the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, there are instructive researches, chemical and physiological, concerning North American vertebrata, by Joseph Jones, M. D.

It being clearly demonstrated that leather is the very best material for modelling parts of the human body, why do not medical students improve their leisure hours in imitating different organs, either in their natural condition or in different stages of dissection? There must be an immense amount of dormant imitative faculty in this country, which should be set in motion.—Here is an opportunity in the direction of their studies.

Mr. Marsh, from New York, is now in Boston, applying his truss for the radical cure of hernia.

Dr. Brown-Séguard has completed a course of vivisections in New York, in the medical schools.

A small-pox hospital has been opened on Blackwell's Island, New York.

Dr. Reese is severe in his Journal, on Iodine Water. He intimates that "*weekly brethren* have been gulled in into certifying its merits, of which folly they are now repeating at their leisure."

Hooping-cough is on the increase in the interior of the country. Scarlet fever is still the cause of considerable many deaths, although thought by the physicians to be gradually subsiding.

A new remedy for coughs, irritable lungs, &c., called Dr. Lacock's Pulmonic Wafers, are very much in repute in London.

Charles W. Sanborn, M. D., in connection with a literary gentleman, has published a statistical work, compiled from official documents.

Cod-liver oil seems to inspire far more confidence in England, than in this country. Here a medicine comes suddenly into fashion, and quite as suddenly, without cause, falls into neglect. There, whatever is good at one time, remains so, till the physicians in solemn conclave withdraw their confidence.

A new truss has appeared in England, for hernia, in which the steel spring is abandoned. There is a bandage round the body, instead of a metallic support, and the pad is so constructed that, acting against the bandage, it keeps the parts in place, and is remarkably easy for the wearer. It is warmly commended as superior to all previous arrangements.

At a late meeting of the Linnean Society, London, a paper was read by P. H. Gosse, F. R. S., on a new form of Corynoid Polypes, accompanied by an admirable drawing, which presented a ludicrously close resemblance to the human figure, and as closely imitating certain human motions.

There is advertised abroad "*Operator's Negative and Positive Collodion.*"

Experiments have been made before the London Society of Arts, on a new article resembling *guaco*, belonging to the class *Serpentaria*, famed for being an antedote to the poison of the rattle-snake. But a rabbit, exposed to the bite of a puffadder, died quickly of convulsions, although eight or nine drachms of an infusion of the root were given by Dr. Chambers to the timid little creature before being exposed in the cage, and more immediately after the sting inflicted on one of the hind legs, which became quickly paralyzed.

The poison of the adder, however, may differ essentially from the rattle-snake. With the Indians, far off West and North-West, the new root appears to have a high reputation.

Dr. William F. Channing, inventor of the fire telegraph, lectured before the Ladies' Physiological Society, in Boston, Jan. 21st.

Gratifying intelligence in regard to the health of Dr. Kane the Arctic explorer, has been received. His disease is represented to be inflammatory rheumatism, and so skilfully has it been treated by a surgeon of the U. S. Navy, that his recovery and restoration to health have been predicted.

At San Francisco, California, the Chinese residents have built a hospital for the reception of their own countrymen. If the patients receive the Chinese medication, the fewer doses they take, the better their chance of recovery.

A druggist at Wolverhampton, England, stated that he had paid Sir James Murray, for

fluid magnesia, for which the baronet has a patent, sixty thousand pounds, since it was first introduced, and it is still in good demand.

Frogs are becoming a favorite dish among the high livers. It is so expensive, however, in France, that the dainty can only be served occasionally as a rarity among those who have ample resources.

PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL WORLD.

Recently published in England, Bacquerel & Rodier's *Pathological Chemistry*, by Spier. Tilt, on *Change of Life in Health and Disease*.

Principles of Education physiologically considered, by Charles Collier, M. D.

A Compendium of Domestic Medicine, by John Savory, fifth edition.

The Stomach and its Difficulties, by Sir James Eyre, M. D., fourth edition.

Recherches Experimentales sur la Végétation, par M. Georges Ville.

Catalogue of the library of the *Medico Chirurgical Society*.

Hodgson on *The Prostrate Gland*.

Regnault's Chemistry, translated by Belton.

A lecture on *Medical Jurisprudence and Chemistry*, delivered in Guy's Hospital, by Alfred S. Taylor, M. D.

In Paris, *Medicine Domestique*, par le Dr. Beaugrand. He is a distinguished practitioner.

Flora Vectensis, a systematic description of the Phænogamous or flowering plants and ferns indigenous to the Isle of Wight, by the late William Arnold Bromfield, M. D., edited by Sir Wm. J. Hooker, and Thomas Bell Salter, M. D.

Synopsis of the Cactaceæ of the United States and adjacent regions, by George Englemann, M. D.

Chemical and Pharmaceutical Manipulations, for the use of chemists, druggists, teachers, students, &c., by C. and C. Morfit, of the University of Maryland. A new edition just published by Lindsay & Blakiston.

Spermatorrhœa,—its Nature and Treatment, with an exposition of the frauds practised by persons who advertise speedy, safe and effectual cures of nervous derangements, by a member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Debility and Nervousness, by Samuel West, M. D.

The Ear, in health and disease, with practical remarks on the prevention of deafness, by Wm. Harvey, F. R. C. S., surgeon of the Ear Dispensary.

A Treatise on Stammering, by James Hunt, M. R. L. S.

Columbat on *Diseases of the Voice*, translated by Dr. Lane, of Boston. A new edition has appeared.

The Constitutional Treatment of Female Diseases, by Edward Rigby, M. D.

In press, by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia, to be published in February, *Indigenous Races of the Earth*, by J. C. Nott, M. D., of Mobile, and George R. Gliddon, author of *Types of Mankind*. This will be a rare ethnological production, the price of which will be five dollars. Medical philosophers can not be otherwise than deeply interested in it.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, JANUARY 28, 1857.

RISE AND DECAY OF MEDICAL JOURNALS.—Under the editorial department of the New Hampshire Journal of Medicine, the following opinion and item of intelligence were found :

"Journalism is a losing business. Within the last thirteen months the following journals have been discontinued, viz. : Western Journal, Ky. ; Louisville Review, do. ; Medical Examiner, Philadelphia, Pa. ; Medical Counsellor, Columbus, Ohio ; Northern Lancet, Plattsburg, N. Y. ; Medical Times, N. York city ; Southern Journal, Knoxville, Tenn. ; and Medical Reporter, West Chester, Pa."

It is a reproach to the profession that such a constellation of literary brilliants should not have been sustained. Very many of those which maintain a vigorous existence, speak with exultation of their brightening prospects at the commencement of a new year. This is gratifying. We wish them all that strength of patronage which is due to meritorious effort in the dissemination of the true principles of medical science.

It is our happiness to be so constituted as to rejoice in the prosperity of others, and to sympathize with the unfortunate. In the death of the foregoing journals, mortifications and disappointments must have been the lot of some of those talented gentlemen who conducted them. But, like hopeful philosophers, they must entertain the consolatory sentiment that it was all for the best, and we hope to hear from them hereafter in eminent positions, more lucrative, and less laborious, than the toil of furnishing manuscript for a journal that made no adequate returns.

Among the thrifty monthly journals, abounding in pleasant associations, and distinguished for their terseness, boldness, freshness, positive usefulness and good-nature, is the American Medical Gazette, and Journal of Health, of New York, by D. Meredith Reese, M. D., LL. D, editor and proprietor. He is a gentleman of experience, and the evidence of his untiring medico-literary industry may be found in every well-selected professional library in this country.

Of the high character of the British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review, republished by Messrs. S. S. & W. Wood, of New York, there can be no diversity of opinion among cultivated medical men. True, it is not a home production ; yet it is an exceedingly valuable home diffusing publication.

The California State Medical Journal, from Sacramento, owned and conducted by John F. Morse, M. D., is very promising in its infancy. Two numbers only have been issued. The contents are varied, instructive, and high-toned. It should be triumphantly sustained in that land of gold and active intellect.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—It is within the recollection of many extremely conservative medical gentlemen, that when this great national society was proposed, they predicated a failure. A difficulty was found, in some places, in selecting delegates who were willing to make the journey for the contemplated organization. But its progress and character must be exceedingly gratifying even to those who opposed the measure. Their want of confidence in the undertaking, rather than a hostility, was the cause of their coolness. This is a fitting time for those who were doubters and doubting, to give their influence towards extending the great advantages to be derived from the publications of the Association by purchasing the volumes, and thus encouraging the members in the preparation of others which are so honorable to the medical profession. There should be no slow show of a public spirit in distributing the volumes now ready for circulation which may be ordered through the mail, by addressing Dr. Caspar Wister, Philadelphia.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—How singular it is that those who are predisposed to this fatal disease of the lungs, put the advice of those most competent to counsel them, at defiance. For hundreds of years, the combined accumulations of medical authors seem to be lightly regarded, because empirics are more sought and better paid for their useless nostrums, than medical men of sound reasoning powers, whose lives have been devoted to the one pursuit of relieving the sick.

That consumption is induced by neglect to breathe

a pure atmosphere, as well as by inheritance, admits of no question. Badly ventilated sleeping apartments; this shoes; tight-fitting dresses to the waist; and residing in houses into which the sun-light does not freely enter, are among the predisposing causes. A hereditary tendency requires no proof, and yet such people marry and are given in marriage, to entail physical suffering and a premature death on their descendants. With these facts before us, no heed is given to them. Each advancing year is memorable for the increased number of victims in New England, to this fell destroyer; but no alarm is excited; no change of habit or custom follows, and Death, the uncompromising tyrant, reigns triumphantly over the fairest models of humanity.

With all the advances in medical science which distinguishes the age, it is singular that nothing new is proposed in reference to staying the progress of pulmonary consumption. There is an unexplored domain open for investigation, in which some fortunate man is destined to achieve imperishable renown. Electricity was familiar to everybody, but Prof. Morse alone made it obedient to the behests of civilization. Rowland Hill discovered that cheap postage was more profitable than high rates. Fulton saw in the boiling of a tea-kettle a mighty motive power. Jenner made a greater revolution in the practice of medicine, than the most illustrious of the race. No one has invaded the thorax with a view of suspending the labor of a diseased lung, till it is in a fit condition to resume its natural function again. For years we have predicted some important developments in that direction, and they will assuredly be realized when least expected.

EFFECTS OF COLORS ON THE MIND.—Good authority might be cited to prove that indigo-dyers become melancholy, according to a celebrated French mad-house supervisor, Esquital. Those who dye scarlet, turn choleric. Out of the first discovery comes the idea of *blue devils*, who dance attendance when money is scarce. Gay colors certainly predispose to cheerfulness. When a woman adorns herself with bright ribbons, she is in excellent spirits. Black lowers the vital mercury to zero. Widows begin to smile in half mourning. When the weeds are all off at the fashionable mourning period of one year, by the almanac, their smiles are extremely captivating. Who are the people that hang themselves? Ask the tailors.

MARRIAGES.

Dr. Alonzo Smith, of Randolph, Vt., to Miss E. C. Turner.

DEATHS.

In London, the celebrated Dr. Paris, the distinguished author and president of the College of Physicians. For half a century precisely Dr. Paris had practised as a physician, and had risen to the very highest honors which it was in the power of his professional brethren to bestow. He was born at Cambridge on the 7th of August, 1785, and at 22 years of age he was elected physician to the Westminster Hos-

pital—a most distinguished honor for so young a man; and he continued in the active exercise of his professional duties until within a fortnight of his death.

Dr. Paris was not only known as a physician of the highest eminence—he was as remarkable for his literary ability. The Life of Sir Humphrey Davy will ever remain one of the classical biographies of the English language. In connection with Mr. Fonblanque he also wrote the Medical Jurisprudence, which has remained a text book with lawyers until our own day. His works of a more professional character were his treatise On Diet, which first brought him into notice, and which was published at a very early age; his Pharmacologia, which has run through more editions than most books, and his work on Medical Chemistry. Besides these and many other acknowledged publications, his Philosophy in Sport has attained an enormous popularity, and with his life, the motive for an *incognito* which was never really maintained, has altogether terminated.

At San Jose, California, Dr. N. E. Barnham, of pulmonary consumption, 44.

At Portland, California, Dr. William J. O'Harra, of pulmonary consumption, 40.

In Dublin, Ireland, Mrs. Louisa, wife of Francis McVeagh, M. D.

In Taunton, Mass., Mrs. Martha Blison, a native of England, wife of Dr. Blison, 72.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 17.

Mary Ann Gannon 21 days, John F. McKeever 2 mos., Mary O'Connor 20 do., John T. Brown 5 do., John Armstrong 12 do., Ann O'Connor 12 do., John F. Ferris 2 do., Jeremiah Collins 6 do., James O'Brien 2 do., Anna Clapp 23 yrs., Mary A. Taylor 40 do., Sarah P. Armstrong 19 do., Emma J. Healy 3 do., Bridget Hayes 2 do., Mary Bresnahan 25 do., Patrick O'Hara 55 do., George Fricker 3 do., Hannah B. Cheney 60 do., Helen A. Pierce 6 do., Betsey O. Tenney 52 do., Margaret Hayes 56 do., James Donnelly 8 do., Bridget Griffin 5 do., Elizabeth Jones 18 mos., John J. Collins 19 do., William Harrison 59 yrs., Susan J. Sylvester 41 do., William B. Kendrick 11 yrs., Mary L. Hitchcock 3 do., Robert Proctor 17 do., Jane Dondero 2 do., Cornelius Carey 52 do., Mary Dobbin 2 do., Frances Leonard 5 do., Thomas Quinn 6 do., Mary J. Donovan 7 do., Andrew Wilson 20 do., James Leahy 17 mos., John Crothy 14 do., Michael J. Mahoney 6 do., John J. Collins 19 do., Hannah McIntire 1 day, Wm. H. McKinley 1 mo., Alice Page 20 yrs., Lewis Smith 63 do., Freeman Dyer 21 do., Benjamin B. Mussey 53 do., Hannah K. Gray 16 mos., Joseph Sherburne 2 do., John Sullivan 13 do., Daniel McNamara 40 yrs., Ann Smith 58 do., Mary Kiley 53 do., Daniel Sullivan 2 do., Stephen Tilton 66 do., John F. Griffin 2 do., unknown child (male) 1 day, Mary E. Wise 4 days, George F. Bolton 2 mos., Fanny W. Estes 4 do., Roland W. Allen 10 do., Louis Gaum 26 yrs., John S. H. Irving 17 do., Helen E. George 24 do., Charles F. Osgood 35 do., Mary J. Donovan 7 do., Julia Dempsey 2 do., Rose Keegan 25 do., John Casey 40 do., Martha A. Philbrick 20 do., Luke Healey 61 do.

DISEASES.—Consumption 9, convulsions 3, croup 3, diseases infantile 4, diseases puerperal 2, diseases unknown 4, erysipelas 2, scarlet fever 21, diseases of heart 3, inflammation of lungs 3, other diseases, 1 each, 16; Males 38, Females 33. Total—91. Born in United States 56, Ireland 13.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

FEBRUARY 4, 1857.

NUMBER 19.

CLINICAL SURGERY.

At commencement of the annual lecture term, in November last, Joshua B. Flint, M. D., the Professor of Surgery in the University of Louisville, Kentucky, delivered a discourse to his pupils in the amphitheatre of the Louisville Hospital, which does him great credit as a scholar, while the qualifications for the responsibilities devolving upon the chair which he is so abundantly qualified to sustain with dignity and honor, must be apparent to the friends of medical science in the West; and his success is gratifying to a host of early friends and associates of his youth, in the East.

Had this admirable lecture, — for such it is, — been earlier received, it would have been more seasonably placed before the readers of this Journal. Its historical facts are particularly interesting, and liberal extracts therefore have been made, with this apology, that we regret not being able to republish the whole production. Those pages which refer particularly to the progress of Clinical Surgery in this country have been omitted, because the profession is more familiar with the circumstances of the hospitals and schools of medicine in the United States, than with those memorable things which belong to the ancient condition of medicine and surgery at the transition period in Europe, — from darkness to marvellous scientific light.

That there were no hospitals in the ancient world, was due, I repeat, not simply to the differences between the religious influences that prevailed then and now. Various particulars in the state of society rendered such institutions comparatively unnecessary. The French Academicians proposed to themselves the question, "Why had not the ancients hospitals?" and lost themselves and

their subject, as was often the case with those indefatigable scholars, in a confused maze of erudition and fancy. "Is it asked," says the eloquent author of the *Genius of Christianity* "how the ancients could do without hospitals? They had two means, which the Christian, have not, of defending themselves against the poor and the unfortunate — infanticide and slavery." The latter, he supposes, secured succor to the most exposed and helpless portions of society, in the obligations of the master; and the former, by disposing of the feeble and sickly infants in a manner revolting to humanity, but calculated to ensure a community of vigorous adults, cut off the supply of those most likely to become the subjects of hospital beneficence.

Foderè indignantly repudiates this slander, as he terms it, upon the heathen world: — "For the words *infanticide* and *slavery*, I claim to substitute *hospitality* and *adoption*. They will explain much better why the ancients had no hospitals, and how their manners and customs prevented the need of them. They explain it in a manner more consoling to humanity, and more conformable to the truths of history, than do these terrible words of Chateaubriand." "But," says Voltaire, in his criticism upon the word *hospital*, which some scholars had derived from *hospitality*, a virtue much vaunted by the ancients, "the difference is great between lodging, feeding, and healing all the unfortunate sick who present themselves, and receiving among you two or three travellers, by whom you thus secure the right to be received in turn. *Hospitality*, after all, is but an exchange; hospitals are monuments of disinterested beneficence." Without any comparisons, however, that reflect upon the past, it is obvious that the patriarchal institutions of early times, the species of occupation that prevailed then, the more general practice of indiscriminate alms-giving, and the absence of crowded cities, in many populous countries,

were all calculated to preserve society from those unfortunate ingredients which render hospitals so indispensably necessary in our days. Nevertheless, it is equally true, that these economical and negative considerations are far from supplying a just and complete response to the question of the "Academicians." Chateaubriand had unconsciously furnished the essential element of its solution, in the title of one of the most memorable productions of his pen, the *Genius of Christianity*. The "*new commandment*," more persuasively uttered than the code of Sinai, had made its way to the human heart, and there awakened that fraternal and considerate sympathy, of which these institutions are the legitimate fruits.

I am not ignorant that there are hospitals in Mahomedan lands at the present time. We are assured by M. de Herbelot, in his admirable *Bibliothèque Orientale*, that the Musulman rarely builds a mosque without joining to it either a college (*medressech*) or a hospital (*temaikla*). But the existence of these institutions is confirmatory, rather than contradictory, of what I have been saying; for we know full well that they are due to a conformity that has been ingeniously impressed upon the precepts of the Koran, relating to charity and alms, with those of the benign religion we profess—to precepts and sentiments which the religion of the Prophet has stolen from the religion of the Saviour.

It has been an interesting matter of research to designate the precise period when these institutions, in their present character, were first brought into existence. In the earlier ages of Christianity, as I have said, its claims in behalf of those overtaken by the double calamity of poverty and disease, were responded to in the erection of asylums where these unfortunates were comfortably housed, nursed with tenderness and devotion, received the consolations of religion, and, dying, found a peaceful grave in consecrated ground, with the prayers of pious benefactors—the best substitute the parting spirit can know for the tears and farewells of the beloved and bereaved.

But such establishments were rather almshouses than hospitals, the essential distinction consisting in the fact that in the latter the services of charity are under the guiding hand of science,—the medical treatment of disease, with a view to the restoration of health, being the leading, primary, paramount idea in their administration.

Under this view of the subject, M. Mongez,

a French writer whose conclusions seem to have been generally acquiesced in by well-informed persons, fixes the origin of the hospital, at Jerusalem or Bethlehem, about the end of the third, or beginning of the fourth century, when the term "*nosokomeion*" was, for the first time, employed by St. Jerome to designate it.

Listen to the interesting details which the researches of M. Mongez supplied him in relation to the earliest examples of hospital beneficence: "These institutions," says this enthusiastic historian, "owed their existence to illustrious women who reckoned among their ancestors the Scipios, Emelii, Fabii, and other noble men, and who, renouncing the magnificence and refinement of Rome, then the Capital of the World, had retired to Palestine to prosecute their sublime studies under the direction of St. Jerome; and through the discipline and culture of the heart, even more than of the mind, recompensed that illustrious personage by surrounding him with practical illustrations of all the virtues of which he was the professor and model. Their houses, where frugality and austerity were exclusively reserved for themselves, while they abounded in all resources for the benefit of others, never ceased to be open to all who visited those holy places. Alike were their hospitalities open to strangers and pilgrims, and to those who had settled at Jerusalem, in the hope of living there by the products of their industry. When this resource became suspended by the impairment of health, the houses of these Roman ladies offered to the sick an unfailing refuge. Nothing which could contribute to their comfort or recovery was omitted or neglected. And even convalescence was promoted by the removal of the invalid to some of their country houses, where good air and aliments, accompanied still by assiduous care and nursing, hastened and confirmed recovery. In the meantime, the bed which the convalescent had occupied in the city was put in order for the reception of another sufferer."

The *zenodochium* of St. Isodore, for the entertainment of strangers, was by no means the *nosokemion* of St. Jerome, which was exclusively devoted to the care of the sick; and different from either was the *villa languentium*, which was manifestly the house in the country where was accomplished the happy transition from convalescence to perfect health."

Our author goes on to advance his proof, that in these establishments, the care of the sick was guided by regular medical counsel,

and was not mere nursing, but treatment as well, thus conferring upon them the true character of hospitals. The very earliest of these Palestine hospitals was established by Fabiola, a Roman matron, who, according to St. Jerome, "*prima omnium nosocomium instituit.*" According to his description of it, that hospital was almost exclusively devoted to subjects of surgical treatment.

She journeys, she lectures, she braves the horrors of the mad-house like Dorothea Dix; or, like Florence Nightingale, puts to shame the heroism of the warrior, by her undaunted devotion to humanity in the pestilent hospitals and gory battle-fields of the Crimea.

"O woman! in our hours of ease,
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please;
And variable as the shade
By the light, quivering aspen made.
When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou."

The example furnished by the benevolent matrons of Palestine was soon followed in most of the large cities of the early time; near to the principal church there was reared a hospital for the sick. These establishments had become so numerous and popular in the fifth century, that the emperor Julian, intent upon the extirpation of Christianity, and the re-establishment of paganism, considered the influence of this generous charity so powerful in favor of the new religion, that he was forced to imitate or emulate it himself. Writing to the sovereign pontiff of Arsace, this sagacious foe to Christianity remarks: "We must not fail to observe how much the Christians have promoted the extension of their religion by their humanity, by the succor they provide for strangers, and the pious care they exhibit in their funeral services for the dead. Establish, therefore, in all the large cities, a number of hospitals, not only for those of our own religion, but for all who need such an asylum indiscriminately, and know that any means needed for such purposes will be supplied freely."

Throughout all this wonderful development of hospital charity, the same gentle but potent agency which originated it has been a conspicuous instrument in its progress. The "Hospital St. Elizabeth," at Landstrasse in Austria, founded in the seventeenth century by the Queen of Hungary, whose charity secured for her the soubriquet of "mother of the poor,"—the well known infirmary of "Maria Therese," founded by the benevolent Countess Chateaubriand, and the "Hospital Necker,"

established by the efforts of the noble lady whose name it bears, are remarkable monuments which the last two centuries have furnished, of the constancy of the sex in this labor of love.

It is certain that hospitals, at the time of their origin, served rather to satisfy the benevolence of Christians than to contribute to the improvement of medicine. The studies employed for this purpose were carried on much as in preceding periods, the school of Alexandria was then so celebrated, that Marcellin assures us, that to have studied there, was enough to secure all the rights and advantages pertaining to the practice of medicine, although it does not appear that any thing like clinical studies formed any part of the education of its alumni. There was also at Nisapur, in Persia, another school of medicine less famous than that at Alexandria, but nevertheless a very flourishing institution. There was established a hospital, attached to a school of medicine, before the time of the Arabian masters, to whom has generally been attributed the honor of that happy idea.

Founded in 272 by Aurelian, that school was composed of Greek physicians, whose efforts restored the medicine of Hippocrates throughout the East. It continued through many ages, and was, without doubt, the place where were educated Rhazes, Avicenna, and the most celebrated Arabians who were reared in the eastern part of Asia. That school, which was Christian, had near it a hospital. Bagdad, Antioch, Harran, and each of them, in the eighth century, celebrated schools of medicine, near which were established great hospitals, where the benefits of instruction were, to a certain extent, associated with those of humanity. The Califs, who were friends of the sciences, engaged in the restoration of these institutions with a zeal as remarkable as the fanaticism which led their predecessors to destroy them; and medicine was the special object of their reforming undertakings. The books of that science had been spared in the destruction of the Alexandrine library, and medicine continued to be taught in that city. The new schools gathered up the precious relics, and the most celebrated physicians were called on to teach and to direct practice and the clinical studies of the hospitals, which were strongly recommended by great masters.

But, notwithstanding the advantages presented in this early connection of hospitals and schools, and the devotion with which the Arabian physicians cultivated their art, but

little progress was, in general, made, in the way of observation,—at least, such is the judgment of Haller, who admits, indeed, some honorable exceptions to the remark, especially the excellent description of small-pox by Rhazes.

The clinical exercises, if they may be so called, of those times, appear to have consisted of a hasty, superficial visit and glance at the sick, and so far as the pupils were concerned, might well enough be described in the modern phrase of "walking the hospitals."

The Arabians, however, who engrossed the history of medical studies for several centuries, made great improvement in those pertaining to practical instruction, so much so that some have been inclined to regard them as the real originators of the hospital clinic. They carried with them their institutions wherever they went, and Spain had at Seville, at Toledo, and especially at Cordonne, schools of medicine associated with celebrated hospitals. The physicians of other countries of Europe, —strange as it may seem as we contemplate the present degenerate state of that unhappy country — then repaired to Spain in search of the treasures of science.

How far Salernum, the representative school of its epoch, was from furnishing any traces of clinical teaching, may be inferred from the following dialogue between one of its disciples and a strange scholar, making part of a poem a few years since given to the world, by one of the most accomplished of American bards : *

Second Scholar.

And what are the studies you here pursue?
What is the course you here go through?

First Scholar.

The first three years of the collage course
Are given to Logic alone, as the source
Of all that is noble and wise and true.

Second Scholar.

That seems rather strange, I must confess,
In a medical school; yet, nevertheless,
You doubtless have reasons for that.

First Scholar.

Oh yes!

For none but a clever dialectician
Can hope to become a great physician:
That has been settled long ago.
Logic makes an important part
Of the mystery of the healing art.
After these three are five years more
Devoted wholly to medicine,
With lectures on chirurgical lore,
And dissections of the bodies of swine,
As likest the human form divine.

In the same poem, which indeed may be said to be founded upon a legend of this famous school, we find, in the following lines, a

specimen of prognosis and treatment applied to the case of a hypochondriacal German nobleman as shocking to humanity as it is contemptible in the eyes of science:

"Not to be cured, yet not incurable!

The only remedy that remains

Is the blood that flows from a maiden's veins,

Who of her own free-will shall die,

And give her life in place of yours."

"Francis Sylvius," says the learned historian Sprengel, "from the year 1658, taught the theory and practice of medicine at Leyden with a distinction which no one, in that University, ever surpassed, except Boerhaave. He was the first to introduce the excellent custom of giving clinical lectures in the hospital for the advantage of the pupils. He opened a prodigious number of dead bodies, and represented to his hearers that observation was the only touch-stone of theories, without reflecting that his own was, less than any other, founded upon exact researches and upon incontestable experience."

This same priority is accorded to Sylvius by other authorities as well as Sprengel. Haller, for example, thus speaks of him and of his clinical innovations: "*Auctor curandorum coram studiosis ægrotorum in nosodochiis, in docendo tantus ut fere universam Europem in sectum suam pellegerit.*"

But there is a treatise upon the method of teaching and practising medicine, written by Kiper, in which we have an account of regularly constituted clinics, anterior to the time assigned for the commencement of those of Sylvius. Kiper wrote in 1643, and informs us that William Straten, a physician of much reputation, had conducted, then *for a long time*, a flourishing clinic at Utrech. "He interrogated the sick at the hospital," says our author, "in presence of the pupils, and without quitting the bed, announced his diagnosis, prognosis, and the indications. The pupils proposed their difficulties, and conferred among themselves before him, submitting for his judgment the advice they had to offer on the case." "*Otho Heurnius*, professor of practical medicine at Leyden," he goes on to say, "introduced that excellent exercise into his hospital. He made some changes in the details of the clinic, which were not agreeable to the pupils, and was obliged to return to the method of Straten." "He performed many *post-mortems*, and gave the students access to the dispensary of the hospital, to acquire the manual of medical preparations."

Kiper, on the strength of these facts, treated

* Longfellow's Golden Legend.

in general of the establishment of clinics, of the choice of a hospital, of suitable medicaments and diet, of the order of the visits, of the attendance of pupils, and the conduct of the professor. He applauds the school at Leyden, on account of these exercises, above all others then known to him. "Neglected," says he, "after the time of Heurnius, these instructions were revived by Sylvius, in 1658, with so much *éclat* that he passed for the original institutor of them."

Utrecht and Leyden are cities of Holland, but a few miles apart, and as little distance in point of time, separates the conflicting claims of Straten and Sylvius, we need not stop to settle, if we could, the disputed question of priority. We may remark, however, that there are still extant collections of observations made in the celebrated clinic of Sylvius, published by himself under the title, "*De Collegium Nosocomicum*."

These clinics are regarded as the earliest models of our own, because we there find, for the first time, the concurrence of public instruction with the visit to the sick in the hospital.

At the commencement of the eighteenth century, Leyden revived, under Boerhaave, the example, she, as well as Utrecht, had offered in the preceding one. Appointed to the chair of practical medicine in 1714, Boerhaave re-opened the hospital, surrounded by a large number of pupils. He attracted to his course, as Sylvius had before, students from all parts of Europe. Unfortunately, as it is generally thought, the hospital contained too small a number of beds, was deficient in suitable equipments, and Boerhaave attended to his clinic only twice a week. He could not, therefore, but be imperfect; but his excellent precepts on the subject of clinical practice, and his enthusiastic discourses upon the study of medicine, joined to his example as a devoted practitioner, seemed to stimulate and to force into progress all minds that were addressed by him.

In 1720, the pupils of Boerhaave, anxious to disseminate his doctrine at Edinburgh, founded a school there, or rather introduced into the University of that city, changes amounting in a new foundation, and established a clinic.

Home and Duncan and Cullen are names indissolubly associated with philosophical medicine, by services rendered in this department of instruction, at Edinburgh.

Dr. Thomson, in his life of Cullen, re-

marks, that "In this country (G. B.), the merit of first proposing to explain in clinical lectures, the nature and treatment of the cases of patients admitted into a public hospital belongs to Dr. John Rutherford, professor of the practice of physic, to whom this privilege was granted by the managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, in the year 1748. In the following year, the same privilege was extended to the other professors of medicine in the University, though none of them besides Dr. Rutherford appear to have availed themselves of it till the session of 1757."

At this time Italy sustained her highest reputation for practical medicine, and in 1715 a clinical school was opened at Rome under the happiest auspices. It was instituted, with great zeal, by the sovereign Pontiff, in the vast "Hospital of the Holy Ghost," provided with all the necessary conveniences for observation of disease and pathological researches, and furnished with rich collections of materia medica and surgical instruments. The celebrated Lancisi, a finished practitioner of forty years, was placed at the head of the clinic. Its opening was celebrated by ceremonies of much grandeur and solemnity. Fifteen cardinals and fifty prelates graced the occasion with their presence, and the professor pronounced an inaugural discourse, which Tissot declares to have been the *chef d'œuvre* of his time.

Göttingen, from the time of Haller, became one of the Universities most celebrated in Europe for its medical science. In 1796, Prof. Arnemaan instituted there a medico-surgical clinic.

At Copenhagen, Frederick V. established a hospital, in 1756, where a physician is charged to keep a journal of observations, and to instruct pupils at the bedside, and to open, in their presence, the bodies of those who have died.

In Russia, medicine was organized, in 1765, under a very liberal plan of practical instruction. In the principal cities, all parts of medical education were attached to a hospital, and every young man who had finished his humanities, had a right to enter and learn the art gratuitously, and to finish his studies at the bedside of the sick. Those who were most advanced—those whose judgment had been most exercised—were sent, at the expense of the government, to foreign Universities, for the purpose of perfecting themselves, and bringing home new light for their native country. The military and marine hospitals at Moscow, St. Petersburg, Cronstadt, Riga, &c.

were all upon the same footing. Each had one physician and one surgeon-in-chief, fifteen to twenty aids, and from twenty to fifty students.

The University of Parvia having undergone a reform in 1781, Tissot was called to be at the head of a clinic which was then established. The inaugural discourse which he then pronounced presented the wisest views of the whole subject, and the treatise which he published in 1785, upon the means for perfecting the study of medicine, was but a development of them. In 1787, there was created, in the same University, a surgical clinic, of which the illustrious Scarpa was professor, and there he collected the observations that constitute the basis of his admirable work on diseases of the eye.

M. Desgenettes, the distinguished physician-general of the French armies, has made known to us in observations published in 1792, the condition in which he then found the little known, but well managed clinics of Tuscany.

In 1696, the Faculties of Medicine, impressed with the insufficiency of theories, felt obliged to procure for their pupils the means of observing the sick, and so obtaining some practical knowledge of medicine before being admitted into the bosom of the profession. According to the terms of the Faculty of Paris, therefore, the bachelors were held, during two years, to assist every Saturday at a gratuitous consultation held by six designated physicians at the school, and to write the prescriptions under their dictation. The *licentiates*, in order to exercise and perfect themselves in the treatment of diseases, were obliged, during two years, to accompany the physicians of Hotel Dieu in their visits, taking it by turn three months each, and to exhibit, in writing, reports in attestation of their assiduity and diligence.

STATE AND COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

A pamphlet has been received containing a report of a committee who appear to have been charged with the duty of proposing plans of organization for State and County Medical Associations in the State of Michigan, which was read at a meeting of medical gentlemen at Detroit in May last. Its author was A. B. Palmer, M. D., of the University. Whether his scheme was adopted, we have no means of

knowing, but the subject, as presented by him, must, it strikes us, have had their hearty approval.

Some of the leading propositions deserve prominence in every journal which fully desires to circulate facts and suggestions like the following.

"The people are more ignorant of the principles of medical science than they are of those of the other learned professions, and, for this reason, are less qualified to judge of the acquirements of a physician, than of other professional men. The talents and acquirements of the clergyman and the lawyer are brought to a more searching popular test than those of the physician. The clergyman's public ministrations are laid open to the appreciation of all. His audiences are, to a large extent, competent judges of his pulpit efforts, and if he manifest ignorance, stupidity, or superficiality; if he descends into monotonous mumblings in manner, or stereotyped common-places in matter, he forthwith falls in public estimation to the low level he deserves.

The lawyer is brought to a still more severe test. All his legal papers must be drawn up with the most scrupulous technical accuracy, or they will fail of their object, and be inevitably attended with palpable exposure and pecuniary loss. Here all great errors are open and apparent, involving the reputation and standing of the practitioner: and, before the bar, the lawyer is brought in open conflict and comparison with a keen-eyed opponent, before a sagacious court, fully understanding the principles which are discussed, and who indicates in his open decisions which party is in the right.

With both these latter professions there is every inducement of a personal and selfish character, to stimulate exertion, to induce the most careful preparation, and excite the most strenuous effort; and with one of them are other peculiar and sacred motives, extending far beyond all earthly considerations.

The knowledge and abilities of the physician in the practice of his profession are not tested in the same direct and open manner. The character of his business is such as more or less to conceal it from public gaze. He has to do with the secret and hidden springs of life. He does not come in contact with the same eagle-eyed opponent, and his labors are not watched and decided upon by the same sagacious and discerning judge. The grave too often conceals his blunders, and few or none are competent to decide whether the pro-

tracted sufferings, the lost vigor, and the shattered constitutions of those who survive, are the necessary consequences of disease which could not have been prevented, or are the results of inefficient or injurious treatment. Indeed, so erroneous is the judgment of those by whom he is surrounded, that he is often praised for his errors, and censured for his highest skill. He sees the bold and unscrupulous pretender, alike ignorant of the disease he treats and the remedies he employs, exalted in popular estimation for the occurrence of events to which he has in no wise contributed, and extolled for recoveries, of which the least that can be said is, his bad management did not effectually prevent them; and the honest physician often feels that varied knowledge and consummate skill, so far as popular favor is concerned, are of less consequence than the possession of other characteristics, of which, in the light of his conscience, he cannot certainly be proud. At least in this erroneous popular estimate—in this darkness which surrounds his performances, there is an absence of many of those incentives to improvement which are present with the other professions. If the physician is not a real lover of science for its own sake, or a man of genuine, active, intelligent benevolence, he has comparatively little to stimulate him to exertion; and if not thoroughly instructed in the beginning, and if his ambition is not aroused and kept alive by constant professional intercourse with the more enlightened members of the fraternity; if his knowledge be not brought to the light, where it can be seen and appreciated, he is in imminent danger of falling into a state of mental indifference and inefficiency, of lagging sadly in the march of progress, and becoming a blemish rather than an ornament to the profession, which, in more than one sense, he follows. Even the greatest lovers of science, and the best of men, require these stimulants for their full development.

Dr. Graves, of Dublin, some years ago proposed the establishment of medical observatories in different parts of the world, for the purpose of comparing epidemics and endemics of different regions, with their meteorology, and the great Humboldt has urged the same idea. Your Committee propose, and ask this Association to exert all the power it may possess, to establish a medical observatory in every inhabited township throughout this vast country, adding thereby the force of great numbers to the strength of conclusions.

To afford a partial illustration of the interest

of this subject, reference may be had to the work of the lamented Dr. Samuel Forry, upon 'The Climate of the United States and its Epidemic Influences, based on the Records of the Medical Department and Adjutant General's Office of the United States Army.' This little work, though embracing the disease and the partial meteorology of the military posts of the country only, is justly regarded as among the most valuable products of our indigenous medical literature.

One of the chief difficulties in sustaining medical societies, is the want of scientific interest given to their meetings, and the appearance of inutility which so often attends their operations. In our practical times, that which is not palpably useful is not regarded as worthy of existence, and if no prominent object of practical utility is apparent in organizations of this kind, they will be regarded with indifference by practical men, and will fall, as many have fallen, into decay."

Here very many would beg respectfully to differ from Dr. Palmer. In numberless instances that might readily be cited, the secret of the decay of the society, and the non-attendance of the members was due to the determination of certain individuals to make the organization a hobby horse for riding into distinction. They monopolized the offices, and crowded modest members against the wall; and in short, both discouraged and disgusted those who felt themselves entitled to the civilities, at least, of those who invariably took an ell, when they had once obtained an inch.

A frequent change of officers, and placing medical associations for mutual improvement on the broadest democratic system of equality, is the only method yet discovered for keeping them in useful existence.

ANCIENT PHYSICIANS OF AMERICA.

Unfortunately, only very imperfect accounts of those who first practised medicine and surgery in this country have come down to modern times, in the form that would have been most acceptable. Dr. Thacher's Biographies, in which there is a pretty clear account of the medical men about the period of the Revolution, does not furnish a satisfactory account of the practitioners before that epoch.

An antiquarian, to whom we feel much obliged for his researches, has a communication in the *Transcript* that furnishes a link in the historical chain of medical biography of New

England, particularly valuable, which follows, — and it would be doing good service for the profession if he will continue his contributions :

Two Fullers came over in the Mayflower, Samuel and Edward. Samuel was the doctor, of whom very little is known; but that little is entirely in his favor, as a respectable physician and surgeon, and a pious Christian. Samuel Fuller was one of those, who, "for the present," left their wives behind them. He is said by Dr. Thacher to have been the first regularly educated physician that ever came to New England, and was the co-deacon, with Carver, of Mr. Robinson's church. He was a great lay preacher, — and physicked the soul, as well as the bodies, of his fellow creatures. He was in great request in both capacities. Prince, writing, in 1628, says—"This year, the *Massachusetts Patentees at London* send several *Servants* to *Naumkeak*—but for want of wholesome Diet and convenient Lodgings, many Die of Scurvys and other Distempers. Upon which Mr. *Endicott* hearing we at *Plymouth* have a very skilful Doctor, viz., Mr. Fuller, Deacon of Mr. Robinson's Church, skill'd in the Diseases of the Country, which the People at *Naumkeak* are fill'd with, sends to our Governor for Him, who forthwith sends Him to their Assistance."

Dr. Fuller's practice appears to have been extensive. He wrote to Gov. Bradford, June 28, 1630, thus: "I have been to Matapan (Dorchester) and let some twenty of those people blood." Dr. Thacher seems to be not a little puzzled, as to the cause of so much bleeding in hot weather. Dr. Rush bled rather freely, which caused that scoundrel, Cobbett, to caricature him in his yellow chariot, looking out of the window, with a label in his mouth, bearing the words — "*Bleed and purge all Kensington.*" He prosecuted Cobbett; and, on the trial, swore that the slander had done him a heavy pecuniary injury.

Mr. Endicott wrote a letter of thanks to Governor Bradford, for Dr. Fuller's good services, at Naumkeak. In Cotton's "Relation of the Church," at Plymouth, Fuller is called "an eminent surgeon and man of great piety." In Governor Bradford's letter-book may be found the letter from Dr. Fuller, dated June 28, 1630, to which I have referred. In this letter, he says of the people of Matapan: "I had conference with them, till I was weary. Mr. Warham holds, that the invisible church may consist of a mixed people, godly, and openly ungodly." This may account for his

letting "some twenty of these people blood," in hot weather. He writes of those who had then recently arrived, and were "resolved to sit down at the head of Charles River." He says of the Governor: "The Governor is a godly, wise, and humble gentleman, and very discreet, and of a fine and good temper." An admirable combination of qualities, certainly, in a chief magistrate! A good letter this; and you may read it at your leisure in *Massachusetts Historical Collections*, vol. 3, p. 74.

Backus—not the profane divinity, but the Rev. Isaac—in his account of Middleborough, says "the first planters of Middleborough, came mainly from Plymouth; and they returned here after the war; and Mr. Samuel Fuller preached to them until a church was constituted among them; and he was ordained their pastor in 1694." This I take to be the son of Dr. Fuller, the same, who, with his mother, Bridget, the doctor's widow, gave the land to the first Church in Plymouth, on which lot the "*precinct mansion house*" now stands. He, of Middleborough, died Aug. 24, 1695, the year after his ordination, aged 66. He was therefore born, in 1629, which was four years before the decease of Dr. Samuel Fuller.

Kingston was, of yore, a part of Plymouth, and, in that quarter, Dr. Fuller had his residence. In June, July, and August, 1633, says Prince,—

"It pleases God to visit us, at Plimouth, with an infectious fever, of which many fall very sick, and upwards of 20 die, men and women, besides children, and of them sundry, who were our ancient friends, in Holland, as Thomas Blossom with others; and in the end Samuel Fuller, our surgeon and physician; who was a great help and comfort to us; as in his faculty, so otherwise, being a deacon of the church, godly, and forward to do good, much miss'd after his death; all which cause much sadness among us."

I have an impression that Dr. Fuller was not inattentive to the matter of fees. There was little coin; and his Indian patients paid, most probably, in suckatash and wampum. My impression is derived from the following passage in Prince: "When this (exhortation, &c.,) is ended, the Deacon, Mr. Fuller, puts the congregation in mind of their duty of contribution; whereupon the Governor and all the rest go down to the Deacon's seat, and put it in a bag, and then return." This shows a just regard for the main chance. It also exhibits the primitive practice here of using the bag, instead of the contribution box, as

was the case in the time of Judas; and of going to the Deacon's seat, instead of being waited on in their own seats.

Very little remains to be said of this worthy pilgrim. A physician, of the present day, who has been long in the practice, and escaped an action, from some quarter, for *mala praxis*, is a fortunate man. He, who has escaped the venom of a disgruntled nurse; the envy, hatred, and malice of his competitors; and the abusive slander of his enemies, outside of the professional pale, furnishes a memorable exception from the common course of things, *corvo quoque rarior albo*. Dear, good Dr. Fuller came not within this category. In the "New English Canaan," published in 1632, it is insinuated that he killed Mrs. Endicott, the Governor's wife, with his quackery.

MORTALITY OF CHICAGO FOR TEN YEARS.

The nativities of those who died in 1856 were:—United States, 998; Ireland, 194; Germany, 94; England, 22; Canada, 2; other countries, 42; not stated, 598. Total, 1950. The greater portion of those whose nativity does not appear on the record, were foreigners.

The following is a classification of the ages of those who died in 1856:—Under 5 years, 500; over 5 years and not over 10 years, 144; over 10 years and not over 20 years, 62; over 20 years and not over 30 years, 273; over 30 years and not over 40 years, 133; over 40 years and not over 50 years, 51; over 50 years and not over 60 years, 27; over 60 years and not over 70 years, 19; over 70 years and not over 80 years, 14; aged 84 years, 2; not stated, 360. Total, 1950. Of the number whose ages are not stated 50 were still-born, and a very large portion of the balance were under 5 years of age.

The following table exhibits the mortality of Chicago for a series of years:—

	Deaths.	Population.
1847.....	520	16,859
1848.....	560	20,035
1849.....	1,519	23,047
1850.....	1,335	28,269
1851.....	836	32,098
1852.....	1,649	38,733
1853.....	1,206	60,652
1854.....	3,829	65,872
1855.....	1,970	83,509
1856.....	1,950	110,000

The following table exhibits the mortality of Chicago and also its population for a series of years:—

MONTHS.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
January.....	60	30	48	38	112	123	110
February.....	57	29	48	68	101	103	103
March.....	53	38	42	81	95	123	92
April.....	50	35	63	59	103	105	108
May.....	43	45	70	73	147	90	134
June.....	27	35	91	82	331	87	121
July.....	240	67	179	111	935	236	266
August.....	466	237	458	152	731	448	394
September.....	174	175	300	191	561	310	224
October.....	70	49	194	114	403	146	147
November.....	46	45	86	96	200	95	129
December.....	49	54	75	121	103	104	122
Total.....	1335	836	1649	1206	3829	1970	1950

It will be noticed that the number of deaths in 1855 exceed those in 1856 by *twenty* while the population of the city is over 25,000 more in 1856 than it was in 1855. — *Penin. Jour. of Med.*

REPORTS OF IMPORTANT POINTS IN MIDWIFERY.

BY J. M. WINN, M. D., L. R. C. P.,

Senior Physician to the Metropolitan Dispensary, etc.

It will be readily admitted by every practical man, that selections of important cases, concisely and judiciously narrated, have thrown more light on the treatment of disease than all the combined labors of the chemist and microscopist. It would be folly to deny the great advantages which Medicine has derived from the cultivation of the collateral sciences; nevertheless, there is at the present period a great tendency, on the part of many junior practitioners, to mistake the means for the end, and to devote too large a share of their attention to the study of *sciences* which are merely hand-maids to the *philosophy* of Medicine. To such as these the words of Pope convey a wholesome lesson: "More good will accrue to mankind by attending to the large, open, and perceptible parts, than by studying too much such fine nerves and vessels, the conformation and uses of which will for ever escape our observation." With regard to the province of practical midwifery, these arguments might be advanced with additional force.

Turning as a Substitute for Craniotomy.—The following case proves that this method may sometimes be safely and advantageously employed. Mrs. —, a well-grown and healthy woman, having a narrow but not deformed pelvis, was seized with strong labor on the 23d of July last. After twelve hours of severe and incessant pains, the head, which presented, lay completely above the brim of the pelvis; the os uteri had become swollen, and had not expanded beyond the circumference of a crown-piece. Under these circum-

stances, as her strength was beginning to flag, I gradually dilated the os uteri, and having introduced my hand into the uterus, I turned the child and extracted it without much difficulty. The infant, a girl, was slightly asphyxiated at birth, but is now alive and in good health.

Although in this and similar cases, turning may be advantageously had recourse to, it must not be forgotten that when the pelvis is greatly deformed the following reasons are opposed to its adoption: 1. The powerful traction required might separate the neck from the trunk of the child. 2. If the head be too large to pass after the shoulders are born, craniotomy must be performed at a disadvantage, and nothing is gained. 3. The pressure on the funis during the inevitably protracted delivery by turning, in a narrow pelvis, must be equally fatal to the child as craniotomy. It must be also understood that version ought not be practised in the event of the child being dead, as the operation of craniotomy is, for the most part, attended with less inconvenience to the mother, and does not harass her so much as the operation of turning.

In the above case, there were a few points in the previous history of the woman's two preceding labors which determined the proper course to be pursued. The points I refer to were briefly these:—In her first confinement craniotomy had to be performed, after an ineffectual effort to deliver by the forceps. In her second confinement she was delivered of a living child, after a severe and protracted labor. No one remedy is suitable for every variety of difficult labor dependent on insufficient pelvic room. The success of an accoucher is owing to the skill and decision with which he wields the various resources that science and art have placed at his disposal. His duty is to adopt the right means at the proper time, without reference to the dogmata of any particular school of midwifery, and irrespective of any theory, however ingenious or plausible.

Obstructed Labor from Engorgement of the Anterior Lip of the Os Uteri.—On the 21st of March last, Mr. Roper requested me to see a patient with him, who was then in labor with her eighth child. The outlet of the pelvis was capacious, but the brim was smaller than natural. During labor, from the pressure of the head, the anterior lip of the os uteri had become enormously swollen, forming a large tumor, which presented at the os externum in the shape of a round livid mass, nearly the size of a pigeon's egg. Owing to this

strangulated condition of the os uteri, the dilatation of the mouth of the womb had been for several hours arrested. Mr. Roper had made several attempts, using as much force as was justifiable, to reduce the tumor. As these efforts had been found ineffectual, I suggested free scarification of the engorged vessels. By this means the lip of the womb was greatly reduced in volume, its removal to a safe position above the brim of the pelvis was easily effected, and the labor terminated safely in half an hour after the completion of the operation.

Enormous Distension of the Bladder from neglect of Catheterism.—About twelve months since, I was summoned in haste by Mr. — to see a most distressing case. The patient, a middle-aged woman, had been in labor for a week with her second child. I found her in a semi-comatose and exhausted condition, with a putrid child resting on the perinæum. The bladder had not been evacuated for a long period. On introducing the catheter, I drew off very nearly a gallon of ammoniacal urine. I do not exaggerate the quantity; it completely filled one chamber utensil and more than half of another. After this she rallied to a slight extent; some brandy was administered, and I delivered her by craniotomy. She ultimately sank. Meddlesome midwifery is, no doubt, bad, but do-nothing midwifery is much worse; and I must confess that the greater part of the fatal cases I have been summoned to attend have been those in which timely interference would, in all probability, have obviated the disastrous results.—*Lanc.*

MEDICAL PROSPECTS IN LOUISIANA.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Upon the same principle that Paris is France, New Orleans is Louisiana. When the wind, the weather, commerce, art, science and cotton move in a way to give prosperity to the citizens of this great mart of activity, then the regions round about participate in whatever is for the advantage of this city.

But instead of giving a dissertation on mercantile affairs, my purpose is simply to speak of the medical and surgical condition of men devoted to those professions. We have not become so Londonfied, however, as to separate the two into distinct branches unconnected with each other. Precisely as you do at the North, we practise every thing and any thing in the line of legitimate business, from

bleeding and making ordinary visits in a mixed practice, to amputating limbs.

An impression is abroad that we are always thinking of yellow fever; and that New Orleans is death to every one who sets foot within its boundaries. Nothing is more untrue. Yellow fever sweeps off many persons, in seasons of its prevalence; but if you knew precisely what sort of habits those who fall victims to it, had established, the marvel would be,—how they lived before any epidemic condition existed. Yet very many have died of yellow fever, who were temperate, orderly persons; but if the broken-down, dissipated, irregular lives of a large majority of those who fell by some of the destructive visitations of that awful malady were known, it would modify northern views in regard to the hygienic character of New Orleans. Let all this pass, however, since it has been discussed and re-discussed in journals and newspapers till we who have resided in the midst of matters, are weary of the subject.

New Orleans is a capital place for practice, if one has reputation enough to obtain the right class of patrons. There are several excellent practitioners, and, as every where else, those who without a single qualification, find that ignorance has a ready market among the masses. I cannot explain how so many of them subsist, if it is exclusively through an income from their professional services. Perhaps, chamelion-like, they imbibe vitality from the atmosphere.

When this communication was commenced, some biographical sketches of prominent medical gentlemen were contemplated; but on reflection the question came up—With whom shall I begin? Then again the charity hospital, the medical school, and the new one in progress, would each afford topics of interest, if it were convenient to dwell sufficiently long on them to have your New England and Western folk fairly understand how they are rated and estimated. Of course, there are feuds here, as there always are where there are two of a trade. If any belligerent manifestations are exhibited by rival talents in the two institutions, it will probably be noised abroad.

Dr. Dowler's journal needs no better recommendation than a sight of its contents. He is an indefatigable man, and it is gratifying to know how highly his intellectual powers are estimated by those who can appreciate scientific industry and genius, throughout the country.

Perhaps you may be furnished with something further on the matter of journalizing, in

New Orleans. There are State Secrets, out of a State, and consequently I must proceed to the consideration of other things professional.

New Orleans is an expensive city for a physician. He must keep up certain artificial appearances, to be respectable, which make deep inroads into a pocket-book. In the country, up the river, here and there and almost anywhere in Louisiana, medical practitioners are numerous,—too much so. Some of them have been so fortunate as to secure moderate properties by matrimony, and consequently they have no further anxieties in reference to the future.

Those established once in the State, who came from the North, have no disposition to return, because of the horrible climate from which they escaped, where it is either freezing, snowing, raining, blowing or scorching perpetually. This is the climate for weak lungs; feeble organizations and those poorly developed individuals who break down prematurely between Washington and the Canada line.

This may be carrying coals to New-Castle, since Dr. Fenner and other commanding medical writers have explained the value of this climate, long ago, for that kind of valitudinarians.

Please send the weekly numbers of *The Medical World*, instead of the monthly series. We are too impatient to wait a whole month for that spirited messenger of universal medical intelligence, longer than one week.

With sentiments of respect,

I am sir, yours, K. R. D., M. D.

New Orleans, Jan. 9th, 1857.

P. S. Don't recommend any of the thousands of your medical starvelings to seek their fortunes this way, unless you wish us to kill each other like spiders in a bottle.

ILLINOIS STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The institution is located in Jacksonville, and placed under the medical supervision of Andrew McFarland, M. D., a gentleman admirably qualified by education and experience for the position. His assistant is Charles C. Cornett, M. D. The expenditures for two years, ending November 30, 1856, were \$73,730.37.

December 1, 1856, there were two hundred and fourteen patients. The whole number of inmates received since the hospital was opened, 705. The largest number from any foreign country was from Germany, and the

fewest from any distant region stands thus—viz. : Russia, 1 ; Poland, 1 ; West Indies, 1 ; Wisconsin, 1 ; Georgia, 1 ; Louisiana, 1. No one can follow Dr. McFarland through the thirty-nine pages of this biennial report, without being struck with the just reasonings and practical good sense pervading the whole document. It was not written for medical men alone, but for the people of the State of Illinois, and it something every resident of that Commonwealth can understand. There are no flowery exhibitions of metaphysical jargon, no technicalities which require a Greek lexicon to explain. Facts, as they occurred, and philosophical reflections having their origin in a close observation of the phenomena of lunacy, have authorized the accomplished medical Superintendent to speak with confidence and authority. Here is a specimen of Dr. McFarland's good reasoning.

CASES GROWING OUT OF A DEFECTIVE SOCIAL SYSTEM.

"There is a class of cases, worth especially considering, which is at once the dread and the opprobrium of those who treat the insane in public institutions. A true impression of the class cannot better be presented than by taking a supposed case from the multitudes who throng this as well as other institutions in this country.

The subject whom we supposed, is a young man twenty years of age, whose parentage is from a middle class in society, and whose early education is after the strictest model. Phrenologically speaking, his intellectual faculties decidedly preponderate the sensual. His muscular system is sparingly developed, his skin fair and thin,—in short, he bears on his person the marks of what the older physiologist were fond of styling the "nervolymphatic" temperament. His mental and moral traits correspond with these exterior indications. He is amiable in his disposition, refined in his tastes, rather imaginative than practical in his aims and pursuits ; and is altogether such a one as parental partiality would destine from the family group for one of the learned professions. Those who could be in a position to watch the first inroad of the evil we contemplate, in such a subject, would discover that the accomplishment of his designs bore small comparison to the vividness of thir first conception—that his undertakings, whether literary, mechanical, or commercial, broke down in the middle, simply because some newer scheme eclipsed the one in hand when half brought to

completion. At this period there would also be observed an unusual impressibility in the mind to all subjects of an emotional nature. The individual is easily moved to tears, or is found pursuing, while the project is new, some impracticable or pseudo-philanthropic design which accident may float across his attention. Almost imperceptibly this state of mind gives way to one of alternating excitement and depression. Periods of seclusion, taciturnity and peevishness are succeeded by unusual hilarity ; visions of approaching poverty, of apprehended disgrace, or fearful views of eternal perdition, are followed by the most buoyant hopes, or by the extremity of recklessness. In this stage the first absolute delusions take form and shape. The individual has, in his opinion, secret or open enemies who wish to thwart his designs, to ruin his reputation, or to take his life. This opinion he grounds on the most frivolous or absurd reasons. He sometimes arms himself to resist an anticipated attack, or deems his own safety to warrant an attack on others. Some of the most fearful homicides found in the annals of the jurisprudence of insanity were committed by such subjects, and under the spur of such delusions. These progressive changes in the case are sometimes the slow operation of months or years. At this stage of the evil an attack of acute mania is not unusual, which at once introduces the patient to the physician of the lunatic hospital.

The case as it thus presents itself is among the most hopeless we are ever called upon to treat. Even if the commitment to the hospital is before the manifestation of the violent form of insanity, hardly a hope of cure can be entertained ; and many altogether question whether an institution of such a character is ever the proper resort save where public safety is compromised.

The physical evils which attend the underlying cause of all this difficulty have in the mean time kept pace with the progress of mental dilapidation. The hair becomes dry and falls off ; the eye becomes vacant and watery, and the lids are red and tumid ; the countenance is pale and expressionless ; the flesh wastes ; the limbs hang loosely to the trunk, the muscles are flaccid, the skin loose and scurfy ; the hands are purple and cold, and the palms exude a constant viscid sweat. Long periods of utter inaction are sometimes suddenly broken by spells of uncontrollable fury, spending themselves on the nearest object within reach. Finally the wretched object becomes motionless and inert. He rises and sits

down, eats and sleeps, only as he is prompted to such acts by others. We throw a veil over the close of the scene, which is often protracted long after the form of the man has less than even the instincts of the brute.

This case has been sketched by its symptoms at length, rather than by their briefer analysis in order that the description may guide those who are in the way of detecting, and, if possible, preventing the occurrence of the reality. It is unnecessary even to hint that the consequences above exhibited had their cause in a secret evil lying far back of anything manifested to the closest observer. The corrupt family servant, the vicious school-fellow, the libidinous book or picture, or simply the unchecked workings of a wanton imagination, has sown the small but fatal seed of ruin—has broken down the golden wall of youthful purity and let in vice in one of its most loathsome and destructive forms. It is a fact of deep and painful significance that this vice recruits its victims, not from the ranks of the naturally low and sensual, but from a class comparatively high in the social scale. Whence comes this? is such an evil without remedy? if not, where shall the cure be found?

The answer to these inquiries would expand the brief page of a hospital report to the dimensions of a volume. It would carry us back to an examination of the influences which make our society what it is; it would bring us into the domain of the instructor of youth, and dangerously near that which the religious teacher claims as his own. If the briefest synopsis of a reply was attempted, it would go to show that there are certain elemental parts in the constitution of every healthy mind which demand some sort of outward expression; and that the error of the age consists in considering the kind of expression demanded as something to be suppressed, discouraged, or, at any rate, to be clipped, trained, or dwarfed to a shape at which exuberant nature revolts. The crater of natural expression is so thoroughly capped by the force of public opinion that secret vices gnaw and gender in the hidden recesses of the soul. When the writer of this report attempted several years since, to find this class of cases in the insane hospitals of Continental Europe, to his surprise they were almost wholly wanting; and although abounding to a greater extent in those of Great Britain, they were derived from what are there termed "the lower classes." The careless *abandon* with which the population of the former yield themselves to the full enjoyment of the almost innumerable fes-

tivals which follow each other in such quick succession as to make a great portion of life a mere gala-day, gives us the key to their general exemption from those detestable vices which develop themselves where such enjoyments are proscribed. An observer can find tolerance for the Sabbath crowd of a German beer garden in the counter observation that it keeps down the population of the lunatic asylum. The race-course, the regatta, the cricket-ground, and the boxing-club, banish such vices in a great measure from the wealthier and more educated classes of British society, and confine them to the sedentary artisan, forced to celibacy by his poverty, and denied the costly amusements of his richer and more aristocratic neighbor. The careful persistency with which manly sport and exercise are made to blend with English university life, did not escape the quick observation of our countryman, Irving, whose baronet, having heard that his son at college had dismissed his tutor and taken a horse, uttered no reprimand, but doubled his allowance, that he might afford both.

So long as we have no national amusements whatever, so long as mirth and sport are considered exclusively as puerilities, so long as the college is without its gymnasium and its traditional sports, and the school-house has no well-trodden play ground, so long as man is an iron-bound and close riveted dollar-grinding automaton, which bends every moment at some false shrine of morality or respectability, just so long will the wards of American institutions for the insane be thronged with such subjects as we have described. If society will constantly wear its Sunday dress of enforced constraint, it must pay for the privilege in such coin as violated nature chooses to exact."

In reference to enlarging the hospital and what is required to meet all conditions of the mind diseased, Dr. McFarland is very felicitous:—

"It is related of the insanity of King George III, that, when other measures for the relief of his mental malady had been tried in vain, he was placed in a closed coach and driven for a long distance through the streets of London, but conveyed back again to his palace, where strange attendants, a scantily furnished and very plain apartment, and the sight of no familiar face, produced the illusion necessary to his recovery.

Humanity in its onward march, under the leadership of the great Founder of the Christian religion, shows no conquest more brilliant

than that achieved in this field of philanthropy. It is hardly yet a century since the treatment of the lunatic consisted in the short prescription of a "cell and straw," yet in our country, where society is but in its infancy, hospitals for the insane abound, filled with means of rational which only the refined and rich could then choose for themselves. Libraries, picture-galleries, lecture rooms, museums, conservatories, gymnasiums; every form almost of innocent recreation is now provided for those whose regular employment being suspended, soon lose mental vigor unless mental exercise is supplied in a form to attract. With the completion of this hospital, after its original plan, with some improvements, the most valuable of these fertile sources of enjoyment will be afforded. They cost comparatively little in money, while their advantages are hardly within calculation."

And here we reluctantly bring to a finale the large drafts made upon this judicious report.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

(Translated from the German by H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M.D.)

PNEUMONIA INFANTUM CATARRHALIS.

BY DR. TRINKS, OF DRESDEN.

From the Hom. Vierteljahrschrift.

Pneumonia of children is generally considered one of the most dangerous of infantile diseases, and many place it in the same rank with croup, with respect to its fatality. But the Homœopathic physician cannot form so unfavorable a prognosis in these cases, since he finds the most reliable remedies for them in his *Materia Medica*.

Croup is a disease which, in the early stages, can be cut short with the greatest facility, and even in extreme cases, where, according to the allopathic attendant death by suffocation was inevitable, I have seen cures effected with Homœopathic remedies. This is a result which cannot be depended upon under allopathic treatment, even if recourse is had to tracheotomy; an operation which, from its frequently unfavorable results, can never be considered anything but a sad testimonium paupertatis. I saw a case in point this spring,

a boy of scrofulous constitution, on whom tracheotomy had been performed in February, during a violent attack of croup. The child had been saved from croup, but the tracheal incision could not be induced to heal, and the patient soon after died with tracheal ulceration.

For pneumonia infantum we also possess remedies which diminish the formidable character of this disease, especially if the physician is called during its earlier stages.

This disease has already been well described by the older writers on diseases of children, and more recently its diagnosis has been made more certain by our knowledge of its objective symptoms.

In the cases that I have observed, the disease commenced suddenly with violent synchal fever, characterized by quickened pulse, dry, hot skin, and great thirst; if any cough was present, it came in violent but short accesses, because the child could not take a long breath; the expectoration consisted only of the saliva collected in the mouth. In one case the cough was entirely wanting, a peculiarity which has been observed by many others in cases of very young children. It is accompanied at first by sonorous and sharp cries, later by short, hollow, suffocative moans. The cough is excited by motion, by nursing, and swallowing, and before its appearance the patient becomes restless and anxious. The cough cannot be regarded as a pathognomonic sign, since it also appears in other diseases of the respiratory organs, and is often entirely wanting.

The respiration is very much accelerated, from 70 to 90, (according to Cumming, in Froriep's *Notizen*, vol. 21, No. 22,) and sometimes as often as 120 in a minute. It is short, difficult, painful, diaphragmatic and abdominal, often interrupted by accesses of cough. The breath is hot, as are also the lips and the whole cavity of the mouth. The alae nasi all put into violent motion by every breath.

This abnormality of the respiration is certainly the *pathognomonic sign of this disease*, and must lead the observer at once to the proper diagnosis, the certainty of which can only be added to by the other symptoms.

The sound on percussion is dull only when a considerable portion of the pulmonary tissue is involved in disease, and crepitus can be clearly heard only when a great extent of the lung is inflamed. Besides, the strong mucous rales which are caused by the accompanying catarrh, obscure all other sounds, and in fact

the physical examination of children laboring under this disease, is often made quite impossible by their restlessness, cries and moans.

The countenance of the patient has an expression of great anxiety and restlessness. At the beginning of the disease it is generally flushed, but later it frequently becomes pale. The eyes have a peculiar glitter and move unsteadily. In the later stages the root of the nose and the corners of the mouth are surrounded by a bluish violet colored circle. This symptom was observed by Billard, and I also saw it in a case that ended fatally. The patient prefers to lie on his back, becomes restless and draws up his legs in any other position. The other symptoms are generally a coated tongue, entire loss of appetite, gastric and intestinal catarrh, vomiting caused by cough, sleeplessness, great restlessness; and, in older children, starting during sleep, slight jactitation of the limbs, delirium, and, in the last stages, sopor.

In the cases that I observed, the patients had scrofulous parents, and had been exposed to sharp North East winds during the months of February and March.

In my diary I find a case of inflammation of the right lung, in a boy of scrofulous constitution, two years of age, occurring in the cold winter of 1845. I was requested to undertake the case on the ninth day of the disease, when a fatal termination could be predicted with considerable certainty. Two allopathic physicians had already used all the remedies at their command without the least effect, and I made another attempt to see if *Phosphorus* could still bring about a favorable result. But this remedy had no effect, and the boy died on the 11th day of the disease. The autopsy revealed gray hepatization of the whole lower lobe of the right lung.

A second case had a more fortunate termination. E. Kr., a scrofulous, slender boy, sixteen months old, was carried out and exposed to a cold North wind in March, 1851, and was taken sick the same afternoon. I saw him the same evening and found him with considerable fever, very quick pulse, great heat, hot skin, flushed face. The cough had a croupy sound, was short, not frequent, and caused restlessness and crying. The respiration was short, quick, diaphragmatic. The patient was restless, cried and moaned a great deal, had great thirst, &c.

Auscultation showed crepitus with accompanying mucous rales at the lower part of the left lung. The breath, lips and mouth were

very hot. The patient would only lie on his back, with his feet drawn up; he drank often, but only a small quantity at a time, and his urine had a strong odor.

Prescribed *Aconite*, 2d dilution, 1 drop every hour, in a little water. During 24 hours there was not much change. The patient had a sleepless and restless night, but the fever had diminished considerably.

On the evening of the second day I administered *Belladonna*, 3d dilution, three drops in some water, every two hours. On the third day there was great improvement in the hasty respiration, the cough, pulse and temperature of the body. On the fourth day the patient had improved so much that I could declare him to be out of danger. The same remedy was continued until the sixth day, when the patient was entirely well.

During the month of March, 1855, inflammatory affections were very frequent, and at this time I had an opportunity to observe two more cases of the disease under consideration.

Ch. E., a boy of eight months, the child of scrofulous parents, was carried out by his nurse, in a strong East wind. In the afternoon considerable fever set in, and when I examined the patient at 7 o'clock in the evening, the disease had progressed so far that there could be no doubt of its nature. The pulse was very frequent, 100 in a minute, the face red and hot, the skin dry and hot, respiration much accelerated, being 75 per minute. The thorax, on being exposed, was found to move slightly, but equally on the two sides, the respiration being short, interrupted and abdominal. The cough was excited by drinking and motion, it was short and dry, and caused moaning, crying and restlessness. In the lower part of the left lung there was fine crepitus accompanied by mucous rales. The lips and cavity of the mouth were very hot; the tongue had a white coat, the abdominal functions were regular. The sleep was disturbed by starting of the arms.

Diagnosis. Inflammation of the lower part of the left lung, with catarrhal affection of the bronchia, and synochal fever.

Prescribed *Aconite*, 2d dilution, 1 drop in water, once an hour.

On the morning of the second day there was considerable remission of the fever; still the child had passed a restless night, being soon aroused either by cough or by sudden starts whenever it went to sleep. There was no change in the local symptoms.

On the evening of the second day there was moderate exacerbation of the fever, with a continuance of the local appearances. Wishing to observe the effect of *Bryonia* on this local inflammation, I administered it in the dose of 2 drops of the 2d dilution, in water, every 2 hours.

On the morning of the third day there was again a remission of the fever, but the night had been restless. The patient had had some sleep, but had been aroused frequently by cough; the startings during sleep had ceased.

On the evening of the third day there was no diminution of the cough, of the dyspnoea, or of the crepitus in the affected portion of the lung. The respiration was more quick and hasty, (95 per minute,) the pulse was more frequent, the face paler, the facial expression more anxious and uneasy. *Phosphorus* was now prescribed, 2 drops of the 3d dilution, every 2 hours.

On the morning of the fourth day, the patient's condition had changed very much. After midnight he had enjoyed uninterrupted sleep, the respiration had become more quiet and slow; the pulse was also less frequent; the cough came at longer intervals, and appeared to be less painful, as the child no longer moaned; the expression of the face and eyes was less distorted and anxious. Auscultation still revealed crepitus in the diseased portion of the lung. In the evening the patient was still improving, and the same remedy continued.

On the fifth day only traces of the disease remained. The respiration and pulse were almost normal; crepitus could no longer be detected, but the mucous rales were more marked. The child looked very pale, but took its nourishment as if well, slept a good deal, and had now natural evacuations, which during the sickness had to be assisted with injections of warm water. *Phosphorus* was now omitted, and *tart. emet.* prescribed in the 3d trituration, one grain mornings and evenings, as indicated by the cough, which had become loose and less frequent. This remedy soon removed the remains of the disease.

Another case was that of E. F., a girl a year and a half old, of light complexion, and also of scrofulous parentage. This child was ill-mannered and cross, would not allow the approach of strangers, and wished to be carried about continually. A thorough examination was therefore attended with many difficulties. I saw the patient on the second day of the disease. On the morning of the day be-

fore, being already affected with cold, it had been taken on quite a long ride, in a cold east wind. In the afternoon it had fever, hot face and skin, dry, frequent cough, with inclination to vomit, and short breath. She had been out of bed and restless all night, had slept but little, had drank much, but little at a time, and cried violently on coughing. The tongue had a white coat, the urine which had been passed during the night had a milky turbidity. On careful examination I found strong synochal fever, very frequent pulse, 105 per minute, thirst, great heat of the skin, flushed face, coated tongue, heat of lips and mouth, hot breath, no appetite, no disorder of the alvine secretions; dry, short painful cough, exciting violent cries and moans; very frequent, hasty, abdominal respiration. On ocular inspection and palpation, it was evident that the right side of the thorax rose higher than the left; auscultation revealed posteriorly fine crepitus, and strong mucous rales in the bronchia of the lower lobe of the left lung. During the previous night the child had slept very little, being disturbed by the cough and light delirium. The patient was cross, irritable and full of complaints, causing much trouble to its attendants.

Diagnosis. Bronchiopneumonia of the lower portion of the left lung.

Treatment. *Aconite*, 2d dilution, 2 drops in water every 2 hours. As usual this calmed the vascular excitement, but produced no change in the local affection. After 24 hours *Bryonia* was given in the 2d dilution, 2 drops every 2 hours, but with no effect for 24 hours. Then *Phosphorus* was given in the 3d dilution, 3 drops every 2 hours. Within three days the local inflammatory affection of the lungs was entirely removed, and the remaining loose cough soon yielded to a few doses of *Tart. Emet.*

It must be allowed that the Pathogenesis and Pathology of this disease have received many valuable contributions, and that its Diagnosis has arrived at a state of entire clearness and certainty. But all these results of modern science have not contributed a particle towards a more successful or certain mode of treatment by the old school. Pneumonia is classified most exactly into catarrhal, primary and secondary, lobar and lobular, &c., all of which forms are to be easily recognized and distinguished, but for all this, just as many patients die as in earlier times when Pathology and Diagnosis had been so little cultivated. Look at the newest manual on diseases of children, by Hennig, and observe in what a hasty,

brief and superficial manner the important question of treatment is hurried over, and you cannot but be struck by the insufficiency of the therapeutic measures which are there detailed. This does not deserve the name of rational empiric science, it is a most pitiable, poverty-stricken empiricism.

I believe that our treatment of this disease with specific, Homœopathic remedies, which have a direct action on the inflamed lungs and bronchia, will give us as good results as we obtain in our treatment of croup, even in its worst forms.

Much cannot be expected from *Aconite* in this disease. It diminishes the accompanying fever, but cannot influence the inflammation itself; it would only be a waste of valuable time to use it for a long period.

Bryonia is a remedy which exerts a specific action on the pleura, as well as on the mucous membrane of the larynx and trachea, and is one of the most reliable remedies in inflammatory affections of these parts. I used it in order to observe whether it would act on the catarrhal complications of pneumonia, in the same way that it does in other catarrhal affections of the pulmonary mucous membrane, but I found it of no use in the disease under consideration.

Belladonna and *Phosphorus* may be considered as the appropriate remedies in this disease. I find *Belladonna* indicated when the disease is in its first stage, accompanied by strong synochal fever; when the local inflammatory process is not yet limited, but threatens to extend; when strongly marked crepitus can be heard at the affected points; when there is as yet no exudation, and consequently no hepatization of the diseased parts. I think that I have reason to assume that *Belladonna* cuts short the disease at this point, and leads the morbid process to a favorable termination.

My observations do not authorize me to say whether *Phosphorus* can be given with good effect at the commencement of the disease. I gave it after the fever had been reduced by *Aconite*, and after the ineffectual use of *Bryonia*; when the local affection had not yet caused hepatization, but such a result was threatened; when the cough was more frequent, short, interrupted and painful; when the respiration was more frequent, quick and superficial; when there was increase of anxiety, restlessness, moaning, thirst and sleeplessness; when the pulse was less hard, but quicker and more frequent, and when the patient appeared paler and more reduced.

Further observations must tell us whether this remedy will also be applicable in the more advanced stages, when red has passed over to gray hepatization.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

PORRIGO FAVOSA.

BY ABRM. LIVEZEY, M. D., LUMBERVILLE, PA.

Medical gentlemen being invited, by the editor of this journal, to furnish accounts of their individual experience in subduing this disease (scald-head), I, for one, cheerfully submit my views of the disorder, and its treatment and its CURE, to the profession, and to all others whom it may concern. Though, to be honest, neither is the *view* nor the *treatment* mine, as original, but such as I learned from the experienced lips of Prof. Mitchell, when sitting as a student before him in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, more than 12 years ago; but having acted upon the one and adopted the other, with entire satisfaction and uniform success, I think it would be well for those of the profession who have found porrigo to be so "inveterate as to defy all medication," to "lend me their ears," so that they, individually, may place "sufferers under lasting obligations" to them.

P. favosa, or *Tinea capitis*, is characterized by large, soft, yellow pustules, which soon discharge their contents in such profusion as to mat the hair, which, drying, forms a hard crust. The cervical glands are frequently enlarged, with chronic ulcers behind the ears, &c. The disease is strongly contagious.

To render the treatment entirely effectual, recourse should be had to laxatives or emetics, with attention to the health conditions. The perpetuity, the obstinacy and the recurrence of the disease, after being apparently cured, arise from the fact that it consists of a *vegetable fungi*, which fructify at the roots of the hair; and so minute are these *spores* that upon the application of any irritant or poisonous applications, they enter into the circulation and come back to take root in the original soil, when the local means cease to be applied. Hence it is that local applications so often fail, when resorted to alone. And hence it is that we must poison them (the spores or fungi) both externally and internally at the same time.

This can be effectually done, after removing the hair and the incrustations by a bread and milk poultice, by applying the "ointment of

three," (viz. : equal parts, by weight, of the tar, sulphur, and red precipitate ointments,) twice or thrice daily — cleansing the scalp every third morning by the use of Castile soap and water — and by giving (a laxative or emetic being premised) two or three drops of Fowler's solution *ter die*, in much water, to meet and poison those spores floating in the circulation, driven thither by the ointment.

Though this view may be esteemed a very visionary one by some, and a beautiful theory by others, I beg, in conclusion, to testify with an extensive experience of 12 years, to its *specificness*, and may the incredulous part of the profession *teneatis risus!*

P. S. In obstinate cases, even an emetic or emeto-cathartic should be premised before using Fowler's Solution, and F. S. should be alternated with Donovan's Sol. Ung. arg. nit. (13 to 13 adeps) or strong solution of the same, is valuable and will often cure. So will oint. iodide sulphur, or iodide potass.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

CONSUMPTION.—Perhaps physicians are as weary of this subject as those who know less of its origin and growing fatality in this country. We are ourselves almost at the point of resolving to have but little more to say about it, because it is quite apparent that there is a general apathy in regard to the increasing annual mortality by this sweeping malady, which mows down the youth of the North and West with resistless energy, and puts a multitude of families in mourning for the fairest, brightest and most promising, in the very commencement of useful life.

A book was published very recently by Redfield, New York, with this lonely title—*Consumption*; and although we have so many new works accumulating for notice that it is a dreaded labor to begin upon them, this one seems to demand a special consideration on account of the grave topic of which it treats.

There are as many remedies for pulmonary consumption in the early stages of its development, as visible stars in the firmament; but unfortunately, the victims are multiplying in the midst of them; of course we shall not argue the case, whether an ulcerated, half-destroyed lung can be restored to a normal condition or not. Nor would it prevent a single marriage of those who are hereditarily predisposed to phthisis, were a thousand examples

cited to show that the children of such parents have transmitted to them the seeds of early dissolution.

There is a small volume devoted exclusively to a plain examination of the phenomena of pulmonary consumption; and it is dedicated to *Educated Physicians of all Schools*. That there are several schools, antipodes to each other, will not be questioned, but how many, as representatives of either of them will either condescend to read the author's physiological views, adopt his opinions, or even notice this bibliographical analysis of the causes that operate to develop, or the means which he proposes, for mitigating its severity, is quite uncertain. Probably it will be regarded as an avant courier, whose special mission is to collect patients for the proprietor.

Without knowing or presupposing the specific intentions of the author, it is sufficient that here is a book. The question is propounded thus—Is it worth examination?

If it falls into the hands of unprofessional persons they will derive far more advantages from it than a well-instructed physician. He must necessarily be quite familiar with whatever is said upon the ordinary train of symptoms which indicate the approach, confirm the fact of its existence, or indicate a remediless termination.

Others, no way concerned with the theories, speculations or medications of the profession, cannot be thus qualified to understand, or appreciate the logic of standard medical authors. This production, however, is quite within the circle of ordinary comprehension. No lexicons are required to understand the text, and it would be surprising if it did not sell extremely well.

The style has some roughness. Singular expressions are recognized which would astonish a fastidious scholar. A redeeming quality, however, is found in the just philosophical estimate which the author puts upon the value of Nature, rather than her accredited interpreters—physicians.

"The great curative age in any case of consumption removed, and replaced by permanent health, has been moderate exercise out of doors, in all weather, for a period of many weeks and months."

His teachings in respect to night-sweats are not to be slighted. "Taking quinine, elixir vitrol and other constringing remedies, only increases the cough."

The closing part of the paragraph indicates some eccentricity of expression, if not of

mind, of the character just intimated, that might frighten an exacting stickler for refinement of style, from profiting by the facts which always speak truly, in whatever society they are found.

Thus, "and shuts down the pathway while the hold is on fire; it is confining matters which Nature is endeavoring to push out of the system."

Let these oddities pass. It is only a novel way of impressing the mind with the importance to be attached to the declaration.

The author shows his fearlessness and independence of thought in a prelection upon inhalation, which just at this time is a favorite course of treatment, as it has been before, half a dozen times, and discarded as useless, in the course of the last seventy years.

"An educated physician would no more attempt to cure consumption by inhaling medicated air, than a finished scholar in the natural science would revive the attempt to construct a self-mowing machine, because they know, in the very nature of things, they are impossibilities."

The author has no confidence in the modern anchor of hope, cod liver oil. His reasonings are certainly entitled to eminent consideration. Recent comments on oils and fats, as food supplying agencies for consumptives, have very considerably shaken the confidence which physicians of large experience have had in their administration.

These are hasty observations, while the subject is one that few are willing to meddle with in books, because theories and suggestions are the burden of them when phthisis becomes the topic of discussion. But with an expectation of extracting liberally from the volume hereafter, that Dr. W. W. Hall, an entire stranger to us, may speak for himself, no further remarks are necessary in this connection.

Woman's Hospital, New York.—The expenditures of the institution in 1856 were \$8,086. With the exception of a donation of \$2,500, the hospital has been supported by private charity. Seventy-eight persons were admitted the last year, 64 of whom were discharged, cured, and 34 remain. Among those cured was a lady 62 years of age, who had been sick 32 years. The average expense of the institution is \$506 a month. The object of the hospital is the cure of diseases peculiar to females, hitherto deemed incurable.

FLOATING FACTS.

[Presuming these weekly columns of Floating Facts may be useful to those collecting materials for publications at a future period on physiological subjects,—medicine, surgery, chemistry, midwifery, and other branches of knowledge which belong to a course of professional reading,—we have adopted this plan of furnishing important matter in the fewest words.

In preparing lectures, writing communications for journals, either literary or scientific, an immense amount of matter for strengthening an argument, illustrating propositions, and giving an interest to a variety of topics within the legitimate range of medical studies, may be found in these paragraphs. They are useful for reference, and are certainly more or less instructive, independent of the pleasure derived from the facts they present. We therefore propose to continue this particular feature of THE MEDICAL WORLD, till a majority of its patrons request an alteration.]

Mistake in Medicine.—Melancholy accidents are not unfrequently occurring in consequence of allowing ignorant persons to put up medicines in apothecary shops. Some kind of legislation is required in the State on this point. The following fatal case occurred at Brooklyn, N. Y., very recently.

"The deceased was an English lady, who, with her husband, a daughter and two sons, have been residents in Brooklyn for several months, and had formed an extensive acquaintance, through letters of introduction to some of the most respectable citizens. She had been in the habit of taking 'black draughts,' a preparation of senna, and needing a fresh supply, the bottle, having the label upon it, was sent to the apothecary store by a boy. The bottle was filled by a young girl attending the store, and the daughter placed it alongside the bed of her mother, so as to be handy in case she required the medicine. The unfortunate lady took a portion of the contents of the bottle early on Sunday morning. Her husband was awakened by her heavy breathing, and suspecting a mistake in the medicine, sent the bottle back, but was assured that it was all right. After much delay, medical aid was procured, and it was discovered that she was laboring under the effects of a narcotic, and in consequence of the lapse of time since it had been swallowed all human aid was powerless. She continued to sink, and died without any restoration to consciousness. When too late, the apothecary confessed that a mistake had been made, and that the bottle had been filled with 'black drop,' a preparation containing a large proportion of opium."

Discoveries by a Physician.—A Dr. McPherson, attached to the British army in the Crimea, has struck one archæological vein at Kertch, which creates prodigious enthusiasm among antiquarians. The following is taken from the *Traveller*, who has an Oriental correspondent, is doubted.

“One of the Doctor’s explorations was so fruitful in results, as to deserve particular narration. Beneath an extensive sloping tumulus, he came upon a mass of table masonry, beyond which was a door leading to an arched chamber, which led to another arched chamber, which was larger still, and whose walls were marked off in squares, with here and there birds, flowers and grotesque figures of various kinds. Over the entrance of the chamber were painted two figures of griffins rampant, while two horsemen, one a man in authority, and another his attendant carrying his spear, were rudely sketched on one of the walls. The skeleton of a horse was also found, near which was lying a human skeleton. Continuing his exploration, he struck upon a tomb cut out of the solid rock, close by which he came upon the skeleton of a horse. In another tomb the floor was covered with beautiful pebbles and shells, such as are now found on the shores of the Sea of Azof. The dust of the human form, retaining yet the form of man, lay on the floor. The bones had crumbled into dust, and the mode in which the garments enveloped the body, and the knots and fastenings with which they were bound, were easily traceable in the dust. Several bodies were discovered, at the head of each of which was a glass bottle, and in one of the bottles was found a small quantity of wine. A cup and a lacrymatory of the same material, and also a lamp, as was common in the East, were placed in a small niche above each body. A coin and a few enamelled beads were placed in the left hand, and in the right a number of walnuts. Other tombs were explored, and various objects of interest found.

“Herodotus, the father of history, gives the first account of such tumuli and their object. ‘The tombs of the Scythian kings are seen in the land of Sberri, at the extreme point to which the Borysthenes is navigable. Here, in the event of a king’s decease, after embalming the body, they carry it to some neighboring Scythian nation. The people receive the royal corpse, and convey it to another province of his dominions; and when they have conveyed it through all the provinces, they dig a deep, square fosse, and place the body in the

grave in a bed of grass. In the vacant space around the body in the fosse, they now lay one of the king’s concubines, whom they strangle for the purpose, his cup bearer, his cook, his groom, his page, his messenger, fifty of his slaves, some horses, and specimens of all his things. Having so done, all fall to work throwing up an immense mound, striving and vying with one another who shall do the most.’ ”

A Popular Writer.—Dr. Charles Lever, known as *Harry Lorrequer*, is about republishing all his writings in eight volumes. He was born in Dublin, on the last day of August, 1806. His father was a builder in good circumstances and educated him for the medical profession, which he studied partly in Dublin (under the tuition of Sir Philip Crampton, father of the late British Minister to Washington) and partly under Dupuytren at Paris. He made his *debut*, as a practitioner, in the north of Ireland, during the cholera of 1832. Subsequently he was physician to the British Embassy at Brussels, and while in that position wrote *Harry Lorrequer*, which he dedicated to Sir G. Hamilton Seymour, the British Minister. In 1842 he resided in his native city as editor of the *Dublin University Magazine*, but did not long remain in that situation. In 1845 he fixed his residence at Florence, where he has remained, still writing for the Magazine, and almost always having a serial in course of publication.

So many of his stories relate to adventure in the Peninsular War, that the public have generally believed him to have been attached to the British Army as a surgeon. In fact, (as the dates show,) he was only a very small school-boy at the time. Dr. Lever has travelled over the greater part of Europe, and has the misfortune of being afflicted with extremely expensive habits.

Faith and Physic.—A bill was introduced in Parliament, in 1690, that no one should practise medicine in Ireland till he had taken the oath of allegiance and supremacy, and had subscribed the declaration against transsubstantiation!

Mortality of Providence, R. I.—The whole number of deaths in the year 1856, was 1,065, an increase of 74 deaths over the year 1855.

During the year just expired, thirty revolutionary soldiers have died. The number on the pension list, last July, was 514.

African Explorations.—Two hundred and fifty miles of the course of the Chadda above the town of Dagbo, reached by Allen and Oldfield, have been added to the maps. Friendly intercourse with the natives has been established with much promise for commerce and philanthropy, and much geographical and other information obtained as to the countries and tribes of the interior. This admirably conducted expedition occupied about four months, from July 12 to the 7th of November. The signal and encouraging success is mainly due to the skill and care of Dr. Baikie, surgeon R. N., on whom the command of the expedition devolved in consequence of the lamented death of Mr. Consul Beecroft. Dr. Baikie's observations will shortly be published.

At the request of the President of the Royal Geographical Society, Sir R. Murchison introduced to the meeting a proposal of Dr. Baikie's to extend discovery up the Niger and Chadda. He said that, being as zealous as ever in the cause of African discovery, it gave him pleasure to be the means of bringing a proposal before the society which embraced not only the extension of commerce but of Christian philanthropy and scientific knowledge. It was believed that the powerful sultan of Sakatoo, whose influence extended over all the Fellatah tribes would give his cordial assistance.

It is acknowledged in high places that medical men are superior to all others for conducting extraordinary explorations, from their amount of general knowledge embraced in a professional education; their acquaintance with the laws of health, enabling them to adapt themselves to circumstances; the care they bestow upon their associates, in maintaining a standard of personal health, and from the pleasure with which they are invariably received by savage and demicivilized people in all countries, who hold physicians in profound estimation. Where no one else would be received at all, the physician is an honored guest. They combine in the same individual, the naturalist, philosopher, physician and intelligent observer of passing events.

Appetite for Liquors.—If those who are addicted to sprees will, when they feel the periodical appetite coming on, take half a drachm of ipecac and vomit, they will lose the appetite for the time entirely; and if they follow up the emetic plan, will cure themselves of the habit. When the intense desire for alcoholic stimulants comes on, the stomach is at fault; evacuate it, and the desire is removed.

Marriages of Historical Men.—The following catalogue shows at what age they take upon themselves the responsibilities belonging to that important social relation.

Addison.....	44	Luther.....	42
Aristotle.....	36	Mozart.....	25
Ben Jonson.....	21	Old Parr—last time.....	120
Burke.....	26	Penn.....	28
Brahe.....	27	Peel.....	23
Byron.....	27	Shakspeare.....	18
Burns.....	30	Scott.....	26
Bonaparte.....	27	Sterne.....	28
Buffon.....	55	Sir William Jones.....	37
Chaucer.....	32	Swift.....	49
Dante.....	26	Tycho.....	27
Davy.....	33	Walker.....	22
Franklin.....	34	Wordsworth.....	33
Fuller.....	26	Washington.....	27
Hogarth.....	32	Wellington.....	27
Johnson.....	26	Wilberforce.....	38
Kepler.....	26	Wesley.....	47
Linnaeus.....	39	Young.....	47

Accidental Deaths in Boston.—During the year 1856, fifty-two males and seven females died by drowning in Boston. Nine persons, all males, died from railroad injuries, twenty-nine were burnt to death, and thirteen died from scalds. One person was killed by ice falling from a house-top, and five by falling down stairs, and so on through the usual variety of accidents to which the people of a great city are liable. During the year eighteen persons committed suicide.

A Mule fifty-nine years old.—There is a mule in possession of a farmer residing near Ballinglass, Ireland, which has been employed in the transit of ammunition, &c., to Vinegar Hill since 1798. There is a saying at the South, that a white mule lives longer than any other mule. Some years ago it was reported that one of that color on Col. Middleton's estate, in South Carolina, was rising of eighty years old, and still at work.

Where Great Men originate.—Dr. Livingstone, the African explorer, was born in the village of Blantyre, Scotland, where his father, Neil Livingstone, and his mother, Agnes Hunter, were married. Dr. Livingstone wrought in the mills as a piecer boy, and, before he left, as a spinner, attending the classes in Glasgow during the winter months, and resuming his work as a spinner in the mills during the summer vacations.

M. D. on Females.—The Senate of the University of London has decided not to confer medical degrees on candidates of the female sex, to the great disappointment of friends of female medical education.

Insect Brilliants.—Bugs are an important article in the trade of Rio Janeiro. Their wings are made into artificial flowers, and some of the brilliant varieties are worn as ornaments in ladies' hair. One man manages to earn his living by selling insects and other specimens, to the strangers who visit the port. He keeps twelve slaves constantly employed in finding the bugs, serpents, and shells which are most in demand. The nearest approach to this is the trade of fire-flies in Havana. The insect, being caught and carefully fed on the sugar-cane, is used as an ornament in ladies' dresses. Being twice the size of the American fire-fly, it is very brilliant at night. The Creoles catch them on the plantations, and sell them to the city belles; some of them carrying them in silver cages attached to their bracelets. They make a fine display by lamplight.

Female Hospital.—A correspondent of the Boston Transcript thus writes from New York. Dr. Simms, the successful operator for the Woman's Hospital, has gone to Albany, armed with a strong petition asking for the Arsenal Building, about to be abandoned and sold by the State, as a permanent hospital for this noble charity. The idea is an excellent one. The edifice is too distant from the centre of the metropolis to answer the purpose of a store-house for ordnance; sold and taken apart it will not bring over six thousand dollars; it is within the limits of the new park, has several acres of ground attached to it, and when converted into a hospital will accommodate two hundred patients; thus devoted, it will be an ornament and an honor to the city and State, a unique and glorious institution, and one which is called for by science and humanity.

Longevity.—On the 26th of December, at Buxton, Me., Mrs. Sarah Bedlon, a widow, died at the age of one hundred years. She retained her mental and physical faculties in a remarkable degree till within four weeks of her death. She was the mother of 11 children, 64 grandchildren, 167 great grandchildren, and 31 great great grandchildren—in all 273.

Liquorice.—Several gentlemen have recently acquainted the Patent Office with the act of the success of the liquorice plant, which is as hardy as far north as Connecticut. It is employed not only for medicinal purposes, but they say is an important element in preparing some of the best ale and porter in Great Britain.

Effects of Fright.—In the county of Derbyshire, England, two of the servants of a farmer regaled an agricultural laborer only 15 years of age, with some ghost stories until he was thoroughly frightened. After he left, one of them clothed himself in a table-cloth, and met the young lad in a field. He arrived at his home in a terrified state, and although he went to work the next day, was obliged to be put to bed, where he was seized with violent vomiting and died raving wildly.

Disease of which Col. Brooks died.—At the Pathological Society, Dr. A. Clark exhibited a specimen of *Œdema Glottidis*,—a comparatively rare disease,—remarking that persons who died of it were generally supposed to die of croup. Hon. Preston S. Brooks, doubtless died of this and not of croup, as was reported. So, probably, did George Washington. The effusion which proves fatal is the result of acute inflammation, and always comes on very rapidly. This is the disease which Dr. Buck, of this city, has successfully treated by scarifications. Several articles of his upon the subject have been published in the National Medical Transactions. The trouble is, however, to discover what the exact difficulty is,—the patient generally dying before it is recognized.

Ioduretted Glycerine in Skin Diseases.—This preparation is recommended by Dr. Gage, of New Hampshire, and is made by dissolving one part of iodide of potassium in two parts of glycerine, and turning this liquid upon one part of iodine, which is thus completely dissolved. This solution has the advantage over alcoholic solutions of not drying. By this means the surfaces to which it is applied remain supple, and the action and absorption of the iodine remain for a long time. In employing it, the diseased parts to which the solution has been applied, are covered by paper of gutta percha, to prevent evaporation of the iodine.—*Chem. Gazette.*

Extraordinary Longevity.—Died at the Caxton Union, James Mills, for many years resident in the Parish of Kingston, at the advanced age of 130. He lived to see his descendants to the fifth generation, and possessed all his faculties up to within a short period of his death.

M. Nazon, the Protestant minister at Saint Affrique, Aveyron, France, has just died at the age of 100. He had been in the exercise of his ecclesiastical duties for 75 years.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

At a recent meeting of the trustees of the Homœopathic Dispensary, organized a while since in Boston, of which the Mayor of the city is one, the intention was expressed of raising a permanent fund to sustain the Dispensary. Hon. John H. Wilkins has offered five hundred dollars towards it, provided a fund of \$10,000 shall be subscribed. This gentlemen is President of the Board of Water Commissioners.

The venerable Ex-Senator Benton has lectured in Boston in behalf of the Female Medical College. These are his sentiments in regard to educating women professionally, in a note to the Secretary of the Institution:—"I think a matron physician should be attached to every Seminary for the education of girls. Their own knowledge and experience would tell them when to make inquiries; and their motherly character would enable them to draw out revelations, (before it should be too late) on which future health, or life itself might depend."

Small-pox broke out on board a whale ship from New Bedford, off Callao and two of the crew had died when last heard from.

There were 800 deaths in Pittsburgh, Pa., during 1856. The deaths from consumption were the largest, being 115.

Some queer doings are represented to have transpired at Stowe, Vt., in regard to a physician who was accused of being instrumental in some way of allowing the small-pox to be propagated.

A physician of Boston proposes to commence a monthly Medical Journal in the course of a month or two. There will then be three in the city. The more journals, the more readers.

Dr. Wm. M. Greene, of Lexington, Ga., says the Peninsular Journal, has communicated to the Southern Medical & Surgical Journal, a case of congenital absence of the patella in both lower extremities.

There is a capital leading article in the last number of the Peninsular Medical Journal, by E. P. Christian, M. D., which was first delivered before the Serapian Society of the Medical Department of the University of Michigan, on *National Traits, bearing upon American Medical Literature*.

Scarlet fever has been extremely fatal to children in New York. In all the Western

States and Territories, the present season, thus far, has been remarkable for exemption from sickness of any kind. When the floods of spring subside, exposing a vast extent of mud to the action of the sun, then intermittent fever is pretty sure to appear.

In the Legislature of Michigan, the present session, there are twelve physicians. There are generally more than a dozen in the legislature of Massachusetts. The speaker of the House is a medical practitioner.

A bill has been reported in the legislature of New York, appropriating \$20,000 for the use of the City of New York Consumption Hospital.

If there are 250,000 drunkards in the State of New York, as stated in a public paper, the idea of placing such an army of moral delinquents in the proposed institution for reclamation of inebriates, presupposes a structure that would cover fifty acres of ground.

A medical gentleman of extensive observation and clinical experience says that persons who use salt fish in their diet are more prone to cancer than others. Of the value of this observation we have nothing to say, for or against it, simply because we have no facts at present for a starting point. He farther avers that this subject will be found worthy of extended inquiry.

Another kind of syringe has been invented, the manufacture of which is soon to be commenced. Dr. Mattson's and Mr. Lewis's seem to be good enough for all possible purposes for which they are ever used.

The wife of Mr. Charles Morey, who was shot by the sentinel of the prison in Paris, was a daughter of Dr. Thomas Chadbourne, of Concord, N. H.

Mr. Blodgett, the learned author of a forthcoming work on Climatology, was in Boston last week. A subscription has been secured sufficient to warrant putting the manuscript to press. A well-known publishing house in Philadelphia will bring it out in the best typographic style of execution.

There are eighty-five homœopathic physicians in the city of Philadelphia; ninety-three in the city of New York; thirty-seven in the city of Brooklyn, N. Y.; fourteen in Chicago; fourteen in New Orleans; fifteen in Baltimore; nineteen in Boston; fifteen in St. Louis; ten in Buffalo; eighteen in Cincinnati; nineteen in Cleveland; ten in Pittsburgh; thirteen in Providence; and nine in Milwaukee.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 4, 1857.

SPIRITUAL PRESCRIPTIONS.—Whoever examines the advertising columns of those papers which are exclusively in the interest of the Spiritualists, cannot be otherwise than amazed at the extraordinary exhibitions of folly and presumptuous doing discoverable in them. Whether the people en masse are becoming insane, cannot at present be determined. That very many are in that anomalous mental condition to be delighted with imposition, in which the more they are duped the better they are satisfied, is quite probable. There must be extraordinary developments hereafter. Those who sit behind the curtain and control the players, will doubtless keep mum, because it is not at all likely they will voluntarily hazard the loss of large profits on a small capital of moonshine, for the sake of the glory of being informers against the craft.

Here are the public notices of a few individuals in Boston who officiate, or rather practise spiritually. It is no sham business, but, on the contrary, a productive department of industry that yields a generous income. Their customers are not chamber maids, silly school girls and ignorant house servants. No: ladies and gentlemen of literary cultivation, social position, and in all respects among the best of people, visit these advertising operators, in reference to their own health, and pay them higher fees for spiritual advice than they ever paid their regular family physicians. Indeed, were their medical friends to charge as these thaumaturgic gentry do, the town would ring with an account of the shameful combination of the physicians to raise the standard of charges.

Here are some of them,—selected as specimens, illustrative of the foregoing statement.

GEORGE ATKINS, CLAIRVOYANT AND Healing Medium, is still engaged in healing the sick by laying on of hands and other spirit remedies. Since his return from the east he has located at No. 184 Main st., Charlestown, and will attend to all who desire his services in the treatment of disease.

In cases where sickness or distance prevents personal attendance, by enclosing a lock of hair, with the name, age, and place of residence, the patient will obtain an examination and prescription written out with all requisite directions. Patients visited at their abodes when desired, on liberal terms. Hours for examinations for 10 to 12 A. M., and from 2 to 5 P. M. Terms, when the patient is present \$1.00; when absent \$3.00. Payment strictly in advance.

S. HOWARD, CLAIRVOYANT PHYSICIAN, can be consulted at his residence, Thorndike, Mass., the first, third and fourth weeks in each month.

AN ASYLUM FOR THE AFFLICTED. Healing by laying on of hands. **CHARLES MAIN,** Healing Medium, has opened an Asylum for the Afflicted, at No. 7 DAVIS STREET, Boston, where he is prepared to accommodate patients desiring treatment by the above process on moderate terms.

Patients desiring board should give notice in advance, that suitable arrangements may be made before their arrival.

Those sending locks of hair to indicate their diseases, should inclose \$1.00 for the examination, with a letter stamp to prepay their postage.

Water from the Henniker Spring will be supplied by Dr. M. He has been assured by intelligences from the higher life that it possesses strong magnetic properties, and is useful in negative conditions of the system.

Office hours from 9 to 12 A. M., and from 2 to 5 P. M.

LAYING HANDS ON THE SICK. Dr. W. T. Osborn, Clairvoyant and Healing Medium, cures the sick by the laying on of hands; Chronic, Consumptive and Liver affections, and every disease which has baffled the Medical faculty, have yielded to his treatment. His success has been in most cases very marked, and such as to give him strong confidence in the healing power exercised through him.

Terms for each Clairvoyant examination, \$1.00. Letters, post-paid, with a stamp enclosed, strictly attended to. Office hours from 9 A. M., to 4 P. M. Rooms No. 110 Cambridge street, 3d door east of Western Hotel.

HEALING AND CLAIRVOYANT PRESCRIPTIONS. C. C. YORK and wife continue to heal the sick by the laying on of hands; also to give Clairvoyant examinations and prescriptions, by receiving the name, age and residence of patients in their own handwriting. They will also visit the sick whenever desired. Terms \$3.00 for examination in a prescription; \$2.00 when present. Address in care of Bela Marsh, 15 Franklin street, Boston.

THE REMEDIES OF NATURE. Wm. E. Rice, Clairvoyant Medium for Medical Examinations. Careful and thorough examinations will be made in all cases, and prescriptions given with full directions relative to diet, habits, &c. Hours for Examinations from 10 to 12 A. M., and from 2 to 6 P. M. Office, No. 98 Hudson street, Boston.

In cases where sickness or distance prevents personal attendance, examination will be made from a lock of hair, accompanied by some of the leading symptoms, name and age of the patient. Free examinations given on Mondays to those who are unable to pay. All directions required by the patient carefully written out. TERMS, when the patient is present, \$5; when absent, \$8; all subsequent examinations, \$2. Payment strictly in advance.

MRS. L. W. KEMLO, HEALING MEDIUM, No. 2 Bulfinch street, Boston. Invalids may rest assured, that Mrs. K. is fully qualified, by study and experience, to treat disease successfully; nor is she surpassed in her examinations, prescriptions and success, by any known Medium. She prepares the Medicines needed, thus preventing mistakes, saving much time and trouble. Her charges are made to suit the means of all.

N. B.—Examinations are made in the natural or wakeful state. Consultations and Examinations free of charge.

SPIRITUAL, CLAIRVOYANT, and MESMERIC Prescriptions, carefully prepared by OCTAVIUS KING, Botanic Apothecary, 654 Washington st. under Pine Street Church, Boston. All of Mrs. Mettler's Medicines for sale as above.

MRS. YORK, Medical Clairvoyant, Healing Medium, Psychometric Delineator of Character. Mrs. Y. does not profess to hold intercourse with the departed, but perceives both the moral, mental and physical condition of the patient, and prescribes remedies; operating particularly on the nervous system. Is also a developing medium, and will hold circles for this purpose every Tuesday evening. Terms liberal. Residence, 31 London street, leading from Pleasant street.

Mrs. Dickinson, Trance and Healing Medium, at No. 15 Montgomery Place. Hours from 9 till 1, and from 2 to 9 o'clock.

Mrs. Bean, RAPPING, WRITING and TRANCE MEDIUM. Hours from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. No. 10 Chickering place.

Mrs. B. K. Little, (formerly Miss Ellis) Test Medium, by Rapping, Writing and Trance. Rooms No. 46 Eliot street. Hours from 9 to 12 A. M., and 2 to 6 P. M. Terms \$1.00 per hour for one or two persons. 50 cents for each additional person. Clairvoyant Examinations for Diseases and Prescriptions, \$1.00.

Mrs. J. H. Conant, Spirit Medium, has removed to No. 2 Central Court (leading from Washington street, just above Summer street) where she will attend to visits of her friends.

Please enter, and walk up stairs without ringing the bell.

Miss E. D. Starkweather, Rapping, Writing and Trance Medium, residence No. 6 Barre place, out of Eliot, near Washington. Terms, 50 cents each person for an hour's sitting. Hours from 9 to 12 A. M., 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 P. M.

N. B.—Public circle on Monday and Wednesday evenings at eight o'clock. Terms, 25 cents each visitor. Evening sittings with families, if desired.

What will sober, thoughtful people at a distance think of the Athens of America, after reading the foregoing notices? They were taken from the New England Spiritualist, of Jan. 17th, 1857, published in the city of Boston—a paper said to have three thousand subscribers!

The city of Lowell is favored also with spiritual assistance.

Salem, too, the city of peace,—the veritable, historical spot where the witches were hung, has a more tolerant generation, at present, than in the days of Cotton Mather.

HEALING BY CLAIRVOYANCE AND SPIRIT-INFLUENCE.—MR. J. A. BASSETT will attend to all who wish to test his powers as a Healing Medium, and by the Mesmeric State; the disease will be pointed out, the symptoms described, and the best means used to cure it. Mr. Bassett is an able delineator of character while in the Mesmeric State.

TERMS.—For examination, when present, \$1.00; when absent, \$2 00.

Office hours from 9 to 12 A. M., 2 to 5, and 7 to 9 P. M. Circles are also held on Tuesday and Friday evenings, at 7 o'clock; admission 50 cents. No. 14 Webb Street, Salem, Mass.

Besides mediums of all descriptions to meet our own home demands, Boston is considered such excellent picking, that stranger mediums pop in among us occasionally, just as theatrical stars traverse the country for extra incomes.

HARRISON HAPGOOD, Healing Medium, also Trance Speaker, from New York, may be found for the present at the FOUNTAIN HOUSE, Beach st., Boston.

Boston is a city of renowned wealth, and the inhabitants pay liberally for whatever they choose to have. Just now spiritual medication is extremely popular, or so many miscalled mediums could not be sustained in the exercise of their special vocation.

But the number of mediums publicly advertising in the *Spiritual Telegraph*, as practising in the city of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, &c., is perfectly appalling. They are too numerous to mention individually, and we therefore abandon the intention, which was contemplated at the commencement of this article.

We again ask our medical brethren to what all this tends? Is it moral insanity?

If fools and ignoramuses were the dupes, no surprise would be raised; but the well-informed, the educated, religious, responsible men and women, visit these mediums, pay them liberally, and stranger still, fall down and worship at the shrine!

When the mania has passed away, as it will, and the crazy have come to their senses, a chronological history of it will be an instructive page; and for that reason we have given names and dates for the accommodation of some future historian of the Spiritualism furor of our times.

WANING VISION.—It is a thankless labor to repeat, for the hundredth time, through various publications, that eyes were unquestionably designed to serve the individual as faithfully as the ear or the nerves of touch and taste, through the ordinary extent of human life. The failure to do so has an origin, usually in some abuse of them. Putting on glasses at the culminating point, just when one perceives he does not see as distinctly as formally, is a sad mistake. Give the eyes no artificial assistance, and the visual

axis will soon be readjusted to the exigency of the case, and the old man may have the clear vision of his youth. Those who have put on glasses cannot dispense with them. This advice is for the consideration of those who have never worn glasses.

HISTORICAL PHYSICIANS.—By this caption, we simply mean those medical men of our common country, who from their literary, scientific, and professional reputation, should have their names transmitted by honorable mention, in the current of history. Very many, who have been eminent through a long life of useful labor, are constantly dropping into the grave, leaving no memorial of themselves that may not be lost to memory and even to the local traditions of the places where they resided, unless some ardent effort is not commenced for rescuing their names from the approaching doom of oblivion.

In times past we have repeatedly tried to raise an interest in the proper direction, to have biographical sketches published in the journals, as contributions to the common stock of biographical collections, that posterity may know from reliable sources, something of the characters, claims and doings of the medical practitioners who occupied the field in their day and generation. Nothing, however, has yet been accomplished in the right direction.

Some antiquarian spirit in regard to this long neglected subject, has appeared in the *Transcript* under the caption of *Old Doctors*, which led somebody else to speak out his mind in the following extract. A large volume of medical biographies was written by the late venerable Dr. James Thacher, of Plymouth, Mass., and some years after, the late Dr. Stephen W. Williams, of Deerfield, Mass., who died about two years ago in Illinois, wrote another, which abounds with curious details. But the extract—

“There are so many books made in this age, that it is not strange if some of them, and pretty good ones too, are overlooked. But Dr. Williams is too prominent in our literature to be soon forgotten. He wrote a great deal, and wrote well. He is no more, but the good he did will long survive. He died at Laconia, in Illinois, on the 6th of July, 1855, at the age of 65. Extensive memoirs of him appeared in the medical journals of the highest character in our country.

Besides the American Medical Biography many valuable papers by him were communicated to scientific journals, and were published. He published also *Memoirs of the Rev. John Williams of Deerfield*, with some account of Deerfield, and the Indian wars along the Connecticut Valley; also a *Genealogy of the Williams Family*, a large duodecimo, a work of great labor; and lastly, so far as I know, a volume entitled ‘*The Redeemed Captive*.’ This was a reprint of the old ‘*Redeemed Captive Returning to Zion*,’ by the Rev. John Williams, Dr. Williams’ ancestor. In the appendix to this work he very clearly shows the absurdity of the story of the Bourbon Prince appearing in America in the person of one Eleazer Williams.

Please bear in mind, Mr. Editor, that I do not pre-

tend, in this short paper, to enumerate all the work which has been done for the old doctors. If I can think of it, when I can spare the time, I may call the attention of your readers to what has been done for them in the medical journals of Philadelphia and New York for more than 50 years past."

Those who have economized life by writing down their own thoughts and observations, whether immediately relating to medicine or not, have prepared a means of transmitting a knowledge of themselves; while those who neither keep diaries or pen their reflections and experience, are too quickly lost sight of in the rapid changes of society.

There is so much talent, practical wisdom, home ingenuity, mechanical energy, literature, wit, skill, and science in the profession of the United States, that whoever busies himself in collecting materials for a continuation of Thacher's and Williams' Medical Biographies of America will not only gratify the living, but confer a priceless favor on posterity, while the author will be sure of securing a prominent position for himself in the medical archives of his country.

MISSIONARY PHYSICIANS.—In the service of the American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions, an incorporated religious organization, for the purpose of extending Christianity and the principles of civilization in Asia, Africa, the Islands of the Pacific, and among the aborigines of our own country, are several medical gentlemen. It may be gratifying to know who they are and their locations. Naturalists, archæologists and students or inquirers in any department of useful knowledge, desirous of obtaining correct information, touching men, morals, institutions, the physical resources of the regions where any of them are stationed, would be sure to have reliable information, by addressing them through the care of the Board, Pemberton Hill, Boston, by whom letters, messages, packages, books, papers, etc., are transmitted by the earliest conveyances.

Henry A. Ford, M. D., is at the Gaboon Mission, in Africa, at a place called Parana.

Fayette Jewett, M. D., at Sivas, Western Asia.

Andrew T. Pratt, M. D., at Aintab, Western Asia.

C. V. A. Van Dyck, M. D., at Sidon, Syria.

Henry A. De Forest, M. D., in Syria also, but now in the States.

Henri B. Haskell, M. D., at Mosul, Syria.

David H. Nutting, M. D., at Diarbekir, Syria.

Austin H. Wright, M. D., at Oroomia, Persia.

Dr. Samuel F. Green, at Batticotta, Ceylon.

Dr. Charles S. Shelton, at Madura.

Henry M. Scudder, M. D., at Velore, Areot Mission.

Charles H. Wetmore, M. D., at Hilo, Sandwich Islands.

Dwight Baldwin, M. D., at Labiana, Sandwich Islands.

James W. Smith, M. D., at Kowa, Sandwich Islands.

Luther H. Gulick, M. D., at Sholong Point, Micronesia Mission.

George Pierson, M. D., Strong's Island, Micronesia Mission.

S. L. Hobbs, M. D., at Lenox, Choctaw Mission, at the West.

Thomas S. Williams, M. D., at Yellow Mediane, Dakotas Mission, West.

While travelling in Oriental countries,—particularly in Asia Minor and Africa, we found in the missionaries and missionary physicians, the kindest and most hospitable representatives of our country. Their information was always reliable, and their opinions and advice should command confidence.

HYDROPATHY.—Instead of being under the control of charlatans, the few hydropathic establishments that have lived through the crisis, are managed by men of medical attainments, and hence they are well sustained.

When the rage for multiplying water-cure establishments commenced in this country, those who had been unsuccessful in almost any branch of business, took advantage of the popular sentiment, that water was the true remedy for all physical woes, and opened the door for patients. A reaction was the next great event, which closed their doors, and obliged the aspiring adventurers to seek new employments. Animal magnetism and spiritual intercourse was a fortunate safety valve, through which some very subtle, oily gentlemen made their escape. A few hydropathic stations have survived the storm; and besides enjoying the entire respect and confidence of physicians of character, they are conducted on scientific principles. Hence invalids enter them under the sanction and by the advice of their medical attendants. Thus they are now instrumentalities, prescribed as remedies are sought. Water is an unquestionable agent of immense value; but that is no reason why a frail, emaciated, puny woman should be packed in ice in January, or compelled to swallow water by the gallon. There is reason in all things, and thus a happy change has come over both the sick and the physician in regard to this matter. Water is no longer believed the only balm in Gilead; while the prejudices entertained against it, under any circumstances, have given way to a common-sense opinion, that, by the daily direction of a well-informed physician, any respectable practitioner feels justified in sending some of his chronic patients to those institutions. With this view of the value of the treatment found there, the late Dr. John C. Warren, together with George Hayward, M. D., Edward Reynolds, M. D., Jacob Bigelow, M. D., John Ware, M. D., J. M. Warren, M. D., M. S. Perry, M. D., and John Homans, M. D. were probably influenced in recommending a well-conducted establishment at Northampton, Mass., some time since, to invalids.

MEDICAL INHALATION.—Thirty-one years ago, a venerable, white headed gentleman from Staffordshire, England, a Dr. Middleton, appeared in Boston, who was received very courteously by the profession of the city, on account of a new doctrine he wished to present for their consideration in regard to curing pulmonary consumption. He presented a tin box, gracefully constructed, large at the bottom and small at the top,—a side view having a sort of urn-like appearance. Within, suspended at the extremities of an axle, was a wheel some four to six inches in diameter, on the periphery of which was a thick set circle of bristles. It was really a circular brush. Outside the box was a crank to put the mechanism in motion. The tin case being charged with pulverized Peruvian bark, the consumptive patient was comfortably seated with the nozzle, or eked-out extremity of the box, in his mouth.

Every thing being favorably arranged, the physician set the wheel revolving—raising a tremendous dust within. When beautifully stirred up, the patient was commanded to inhale the flying cloud. The effect was to irritate the diseased organs prodigiously. Coughing invariably followed, and expectoration for a little time became freer, perhaps. But, cough or no cough, the injunction was to persist in the treatment, because it was the last and only hope to be found for the unhappy sufferer in the realms of science.

The theory of Dr. Middleton was this, viz: that by applying medicinal agents directly to the diseased surface, the prospect of benefit was infinitely superior to the ancient circuitous method of dosing the stomach with an expectation of essentially bettering the condition of ulcerations in the pulmonary organs.

Dr. Middleton gained but few converts among medical men, but it took wonderfully well with those who knew nothing of the anatomy of the breathing apparatus. A few practitioners procured the inhaling apparatus, because the friends of the sick demanded it. One of the last of those anomalous tin canisters known to the students of that day as Middleton's bark-mill, was seen some years later, standing on the top of a case at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Middleton taught his disciples to charge the inhaler with calcined sponge, pulverized dandelion, and stramonium, for the dispersion of tubercles. He believed phthisis contagious, and he cautioned his audiences to be careful not to inhale the breath of consumptives. The idea seemed to be that the expired air from diseased lungs contained the certain something that would develop the same malady in lungs into which it should be drawn.

It is pleasant to look back upon the past, and contrast the views of those who have figured their appointed time upon the stage with modern propositions in medicine. Every one admits that this is a day of more accurate medical science than any preceding period; but, after all, is there any more real success in the treatment of diseases?

Inhalation is being revived again. Consumptives are numerous in the Northern States, and from the fitful character of the climate, combined with the prevalent vices in dress and living, will never be less while the present race occupy New England. These observations are introductory to some proposed disquisitions on this subject at a convenient opportunity.

ARCTIC APPETITE.—The quantity of walrus and seal meat which the Esquimaux consumes in a single day, demonstrates two curious laws, with which the chemist and the physiologist are familiar, viz.: that the lamp of life, to be kept burning in the frozen regions of the far-off North, must be perpetually supplied with enormous quantities of animal matter. No vegetarian could subsist six and thirty hours on his favorite theoretical diet on the margin of a Polar Sea, or among the Arctic icebergs; and secondly, it proves that the powers of digestion are developed and sustained according to the demands of the system,—without destroying the machinery by which the process of converting the animal products of that distant part of the globe, into human bones and muscles is effected, any sooner than the gastric apparatus gives way in the temperate zones, under the milder and more delicate diet of toast and tea.

Dr. Kane assures us that "the quantity which the members of a family consume, exorbitant as it seems to a stranger, is rather a necessity of their peculiar life and organization, than the result of inconsiderate gluttony. In active exercise and constant exposure to cold, the waste of carbon must be enormous.

"When in-doors and at rest, tinkering over their ivory harness-rings, fowl-nets or other household gear, they eat as we do in more civilized lands—for animal enjoyment, and to pass away time. But when on the hunt they take but one meal a day, and that after the day's labor is over; they go out upon the ice without breakfast, and, except the cold cuts, which I confess are numerous—(generally raw, frozen liver) eat nothing until their return. I would average the Esquimaux ration in a season of plenty,—it is of course a mere estimate, but I believe a perfectly fair one—at eight or ten pounds a day, with soup and water to the extent of half a gallon."

What will Dr. Walcott say to this?

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HOSPITALS.—Of the utility of hospitals in cities there can be no difference of opinion; but under the ordinary policy by which they are professionally officered, they become the instruments of a very select number of gentlemen, who grow into public notice through their connexion with them, to the annoyance of those of equal mental and scientific calibre, who are unsuccessful in attracting the patronizing notice of trustees, with whom appointments are made.

An immense amount of ill-will, envy, and unpro-

professional acidity might be avoided, were all the medical practitioners of a city, in regular standing, appointed, for example, alphabetically, to officiate as physicians and surgeons of the institution. Once in two or three years the turn would come round for officiating a second and third term. This would be a system of equality. They would rise alike in public favor, and their qualifications for the highest order of responsibilities be weighed and measured by the people.

Under the present system, a few keep all the others at a distance, where they fully intend to keep them. An argument against this equitable distribution of professional honor, is found in the remark, — "The service is gratuitous, — then why substitute in experienced for experienced medical visitors?"

If it is gratuitous labor, then there is a reason why there should be an alternation of attendance. It would prevent a small man from being elevated beyond his merits, by the mere circumstance of having powerful friends at court, at the expense of others of genius and profound attainments, who are kept down to an artificial level by a bad condition of society, in which self-interest and pure selfishness outweigh sterling attainments and fine talents.

Very many would not accept of the distinction of being a hospital physician or surgeon, if offered to them. They are happy individuals who have no ambition to do double duty: that is, be a humble servant for nothing in the morning, for the benefits accruing from it in the afternoon. If all men are equal in the estimation of the Constitution, then physicians, of all others, by courtesy should favor this proposition.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMŒOPATHY. — A national organization of homœopathists, which has already held twelve annual sessions, does not indicate that degree of feebleness which might be expected in an institution whose members were few in number and of limited resources. Over and over again has the prediction been audibly made, that these infinitesimal gentlemen were in the condition of the Irish dragoon, who was "out of employment, out of *patience* and kicked out of the company." Homœopathy is largely on the increase in the United States. An augmentation of numbers, the patronage of the paying public, and the decided prosperity of their fraternal and scientific institutions, cannot be kept out of sight. No one has been more unwilling to believe these facts than ourselves, because it was apparent that if they succeeded, it would awaken the old school forces already in the field; and whatever they gain in business or professional position, is certainly drawn from us.

MARRIAGES.

In Boston, Dr. James Morrison, of Baltimore, to Miss L. M. Sanford; at Nevada, California, Dr. J. F. Randolph to Mrs. J. A. Swift; at Portland, California, C. F. Morgan, Esq., to Miss A. B., daughter of Dr. L. Read, of Clackamas Co., Oregon.

Thomas W. Meekins, M. D., of Northampton, Mass., to Miss H. R. Hill.

A. T. Hamilton, M. D., of Gove House, Fahan, Ireland, to Miss M. E. Sinclair.

DEATHS.

In New York, William Henry Hobart, M. D., 52.

In New York, Miss Adeline, daughter of the late Dr. G. N. Phillips, of Orange Co., N. Y.

At Gardner, Me., Frederick P. Theobald, M. D., 41.

At Glandore, Ireland, R. Fitz James Barry, M. D.

At Carrickfergus, Ireland, Geo. Forsyth, M. D., 73.

At Newry, Ireland, suddenly, William Waddell, M. D., surgeon.

In Liverpool, Mrs. Anna, wife of Dr. McMann, staff surgeon.

At Portland, Me., Dr. Nathaniel Montgomery, 77.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 24.

Daniel Lynch 2 ds., Henry Hamill 1 mo., Mary Kerwick 1 do., Joanna Regan 14 mos., Ellen Mullane 12 do., John Whooley 2 do., Edward Sheehan 13 do., John J. Quinn 9 do., Ann Cook 71 yrs., Catharine Adams 20 do., Susan A. Rogers 37 do., Mary A. Rogers 28 do., Hiram Webber 60 do., Cecilia Doherty 30 do., Thomas F. Mulligan 2 do., Edward Maloney 2 do., Jedediah P. Bean 42 do., Geo. C. Crowinshield 45 do., Susan Ward 4 do., Patrick Smith 66 do., Anthony O'Healy 45 do., Rose M. Desmond 6 do., Elizabeth Regan 2 do., Ann McGovern 4 do., Frances Ash 35 do., Thos. F. Lane 3 do., Harriott M. Holman 14 do., Mary Waitt 53 do., Geo. F. Caverly 19 do., George H. Phenix 2 do., Anna J. Burnett 4 do., Margaret Flemming 30 do., Mary J. Capewell 31 do., Ann M. Dunlap 5 do., Edward Roche 4 mos., Wm. J. Thompson 7 do., Esther A. Newcomb 3 do., Lizzie Dyer 11 do., Frederick Perry 10 do., Daniel W. Hapburn 9 do., Frederick Murphy 21 ds., child of Samuel and Fanny Small 1 day, Sarah Bodkin 15 mos., Elizabeth Shannon 3 do., Sarah A. Foye 40 yrs., Wm. J. Long 69 do., Timothy Lynch 25 do., Henry P. Sampson 26 do., Mary Creahan 28 do., Mary A. Connell 3 do., John T. McCormick 2 do., Michael A. Spellman 3 do., John E. Wright 28 do., Thos. F. Lane 3 do., Thos. Donahy 13 do., Geo. W. W. Ingersoll 3 do., Daniel Shea 2 do., Patrick McAweeney 58 do., Catharine Walsh 55 do., John E. Aमेvers 32 do., J. Augustus Adams 34 do., Mary Fahey 3 do., Carl H. Lammering 3 do., Thos. McCormick 73 do., Lewis Glass 2 do., Susan Derby 43 do., Catharine Sturgis 35 do., Margaret Nary 12 mos., Geo. Feenaughty 20 do., John McGerry 12 do., John R. Foster 2 do., Geo. M. Hyde 4 do., Charles F. Topham 18 mos., Rosanna Kenney 8 yrs., Daniel Coleman 2 do., Chas. E. Wood 3 do., Etta M. Nickerson 5 do., Roderick McNash 25 do., Sarah J. Gallagher 7 do., Jas. Lynn 35 do., Wm. Durkin 3 do., Servilla A. Tisdale 28 do., Francis Parkman, jr. 2 do., Lura I. Wood 8 mos., John Murphy 8 do.

DISEASES.—Consumption 21, convulsions 3, croup 4, dropsy in head 3, infantile diseases 2, puerperal do. 2, unknown do. 2, scarlet fever 29, inflammation of lungs 4, palsy 2, teething 2, other diseases, 1 each, 11. Total 85. 68 were born in the United States, 11 in Ireland, 2 in England, 4 in British Provinces.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

FEBRUARY 11, 1857.

NUMBER 20.

REMOVAL OF A UTERINE TUMOR, TOGETHER WITH THE EXTIRPATION OF THE ENTIRE ORGAN AND ITS APPENDAGES.

BY WM. I. BAKER, M. D., KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

Assisted by Drs. James Rodgers, James H. Sawyers, and
John M. Boyd.

Matilda, a negress, servant of Mrs. Laura Barden of this city, married, but without children, has been occasionally, since the year 1851, under treatment for inflammation of the os uteri.

In March, she became pregnant, but aborted in the latter part of April. She has always suffered from dysmenorrhœa. With these exceptions, her general health had been good, previous to October, 1855. About this time, she states that she began to feel a lump in the right iliac region. Nervous disturbance began also to be more distressing.

In June, 1856, was requested to see her. Found her suffering severe pain in lumbar vertebræ, and thence through the pelvis, with usual symptoms of dysmenorrhœa; the disturbance of the nervous system amounted to hysteria. There was retention of urine, and the catheter was used, and a copious amount of urinary secretion secured. The abdominal tumor was noticed, and upon inquiry it was found to be of eleven months standing.

She had been under the impression that she was pregnant. It occupied all the hypogastric region, and a portion of both iliacs, inclining decidedly to the right. It is firm to the feel, somewhat moveable, and reaches to within two and a half inches below the umbilicus. An examination per vaginam reveals a slightly nodulated surface, far back between the promontory of the sacrum and the uterus.

The womb is pushed forward, and is evidently retroverted. The os high up behind the pubis.

The speculum shows the tissue visible o

be in a healthy condition. The os, however, cannot be grasped by the valves of the speculum. From this time forward she was under treatment, it being sought by remedial measures, local and constitutional, to retard or check the growth. In every succeeding menstrual return, medical interference was necessary to palliate her sufferings. Each time the catheter was used to obviate retention, and purgative medicines were indicated. The menstrual discharge continued for thirty-six hours, but was in small quantity, and of a black appearance.

In August, another and serious inconvenience manifested itself, viz., constipation, which rendered frequent a necessity for laxative medicines.

During *the period*, the rectum became irritated, and in one instance positive inflammation supervened.

From 10th of October, constitutional derangement grew rapidly and steadily worse. Previous to this time, she had enjoyed at least an immunity from pain. Now it was constant, and frequently excruciating. The pain was described as dull, heavy and aching in the pelvis, but sharp and lancinating from the sacrum to the dorsal vertebra.

Depression in the tone of the nervous system was more rapid.

Hysteria exhibits itself frequently, and slight causes produce paroxysms. The appetite is very much impaired, morbid and irregular, and she sleeps, really, for nights successively, scarcely at all. The tumor feels in size, through the abdominal parietes, as the pregnant uterus of seven months.

There is a well-marked protuberance in the right lumbar region. This protuberance can, by kneading, be moved over as far as the mesian line, a distance of two and a half inches.

To *the touch*, the womb not only feels heavy, but offers to the finger a degree of elastic resistance. It reveals also a gradually extend-

ing irregular surface. The mammæ are enlarged. The areola has increased in area and in depth of color, and there is a secretion of milk. Depraved appetite and longing is marked. She insists that she has felt motion as of a foetus in utero.

A sound was introduced in the womb, to determine the size of its cavity. It was introduced with difficulty, and met the walls of the fundus two inches from the os.

Convinced that nature could not long resist the ravages of the above-mentioned conditions, but must soon yield to such mischief at work, an operation to remove the tumor was proposed. Diagnosis could not determine whether or not the tumor had grown from the matrix, or some contiguous point. It was certainly attached to the womb, but whether the base was fixed from origin and growth was only conjectural. Drs. Rodgers and Sawyers having been called in consultation, examined carefully the case, and concurred in the propriety of an operation for removal.

Friday, November 6.—Menstruation came on in usual quantity, and with usual increase of grievances.

It was determined to operate on the following Thursday, November 13. At 10 o'clock, A. M., Drs. Rodgers and Sawyers kindly assisting, the patient was anæsthetized. Chloric ether was administered by Dr. Sawyers in the outset, but its action was very tardy, and chloroform was substituted. In a few minutes thorough insensibility was procured, and the operation was commenced by making an incision from the umbilicus to the pubes in the linea alba. So soon as the division of the abdominal walls was complete at the middle portion of the incision, the protuberance of the tumor came out. Upon attempting to lift it, a portion of the tumor was found to extend above the umbilicus, whereupon the incision was extended $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches higher, avoiding the navel. The upper portion of the tumor could now be raised, and by turning out the bowels, it was discovered to be attached to the sacral and lumbar vertebral regions by extensive and pretty firm adhesion. It was also found that the ovaries and uterus were so involved that separation was quite impossible. Indeed the uterine walls were hypertrophied and distorted, and had become heterologous, and a portion of the tumor. The ovaries were involved only from contiguity, the peritoneal covering adhering. Now, either the tumor must be returned, be but partially extirpated, or womb, ovaries and tumors, brought away.

After a few moments' deliberation, it was determined to excise the whole. Accordingly the serous adhesions were torn or dissected up. The ligaments were severed until the mass was attached only by the vagina as a pedicle. A needle, armed with a ligature, was now passed through the cervix, and the lateral halves constricted tightly. The cervix was divided immediately above the ligature, and the mass removed.

The pedicle was brought to the lowest point of incision and secured. The wound was closed by the interrupted suture.

There was probably left of the neck and cervix from the os to the ligature half an inch—the section being made at a point just above the juncture of the vaginal walls to the neck. During the progress of the operation, but one artery required ligation, viz., the spermatic of the left, when the broad ligament was cut. There was no hemorrhage from that of the right side. The venous hemorrhage probably amounted altogether to $\frac{3}{4}$ x. The patient bore chloroform remarkably well. The tumor and parts excised weighed 46 ounces avoirdupois. It is of a fibrous nature, but its character will be more definitely given, when it shall have been submitted to microscopic examination.

A glance at the condition of the patient, for several consecutive days, is appended. As soon as she had come out sufficiently from the effects of chloroform, 100 m. tinct. opii were administered, and an *opium to narcotism treatment* adopted. Peritonitis was of course anticipated, and dreaded. It was sought by narcosis to control the peristaltic action, or to "put the bowels in splints." Ordered, grs. ij. opium every 4 hours, together with tinct. valerian $\frac{3}{4}$ j. when necessary to quell nervous excitement.

November 14th, visit 8, A. M.—Pulse 98; skin natural; slight thirst; tongue looks pretty well; has occasional spasm of the bowels; kidneys active, but urine of a darkish red color. Ordered a continuance of the opium.

4, P. M.—Pulse 108; tongue rather dry, with a heavy coat; skin hot and dry; some restlessness; kidneys have acted freely; urine improved; some distention of abdomen. Opium continued. Sodæ bi. carb. given in drink. Barley water allowed.

15th, 8, A. M.—Pulse 98; skin pleasant; slept more comfortably last night; tongue coated white, but cleaning; kidneys acted twice last night; secretion more natural. Continue same prescription.

6, P. M.—Pulse 103; skin pleasant; great

tympanitic distention; knees drawn up; nausea and jactitation; incision is discharging pus, healthy in its character.

Fresh adhesive plaster applied; cold cloths applied to abdomen; opium continued.

16th, 8, A. M.—Pulse 86; tongue more moist, but very white; secretion of kidneys improved in quantity and quality.

Some eructations, with occasional singultus. Prescription continued.

17th, 8, A. M.—Pulse 108; epigastric region much distended; frequent eructations; abdomen less swollen, and softened; pus looks laudable, but has a fetid odor; breath offensive; has had slight action from bowels; kidneys doing well. Ordered carbon 20 grs.; beef tea occasionally.

R. Chloride soda - - - $\bar{z}j$.

Aqua destillata - - $\bar{z}vij$., to be applied to the wound. Opium continued.

18th, 8, A. M.—Pulse 108; rested badly last night, but was not in pain; kidneys active; abdomen reduced smartly; opium discontinued; carbon and mag. advised; is allowed chicken water.

19th, 8, A. M.—Pulse 108; has had two actions from the bowels; tension and swelling greatly reduced; pus is healthy and increases in quantity. Is allowed light diet. Mur. tinct. opii. to be given if there should occur pain or restlessness.

20th, 5, P. M.—Pulse 98; bowels and kidneys have acted; wound discharges freely; appetite slightly improved.

On the 23d and 25th of November, the sutures were removed. Wound healing nicely.

November 26.—It became necessary to adopt a tonic supporting plan of treatment. Ordered 12 drops aromatic sulph. acid in an ounce and a half of cold infusion of chamomile, three times a day.

November 29th.—The pedicle ligatures came away.

December 3d and 4th,—*the days that menstruation should have appeared*,—there was marked increment in severity of symptoms. Pulse 100 to 104; appetite failed; there was distressing nausea and vomiting; hysteria; pains in the abdomen; diminished urinary secretion. Her aspect and condition were strikingly similar to that presented antecedent to and during menstruation.

December 5 and 6.—She has recuperated considerably, though it was necessary for several successive days to use the catheter.

From this time forward there was only occasional and slight interruptions to a gradual

yet steady return to health. The wound, three-fourths of it, had cicatrized. At the point where the pedicle was attached, there was a free discharge of pus, and on December 20th, a string of dead areolar tissue was removed just from the locality of the pedicle. This core was, in extraction, broken in several places, but altogether measured four and a-half inches.

January 1st and 2d, 1857.—Was rather more uncomfortable; *period for menstruation*.

January 3d.—Is free from uneasiness; wound has healed almost entirely, discharge is very small. Is allowed to sit up, but not to walk farther than from the bed to the chair. She was to-day discharged.—*Southern Jour. Med. and Phys. Sci.*

MUSCULAR ATROPHY.

Two patients, suffering from muscular atrophy, in the clinical service of the Hotel Dieu, where they have both been for a long time, (one for more than a year, and the other about nine or ten months), have furnished M. Vigla, who, for the present, supplies the place of M. Rostan, with an occasion for examining some of the peculiarities of this grave affection, which, within the last few years only, has received special attention from physicians. Since these two cases both the one and the other present, independently of the general interest which is connected with everything bearing upon this disease, certain peculiarities which throw some light upon the most controverted points in this disease.

The first of these patients is a man forty-four years of age, of a good natural constitution, exercises a profession which beside great muscular efforts, exposes him to all the inclemency of the weather, that of a charcoal porter upon the banks of the Seine; like most men of this profession, he was somewhat inclined to alcoholic stimulants. This man, till then perfectly well, entered the Hotel Dieu the 24th October, 1855, having been unwell about a month. His disease made its appearance in a very sudden manner. After a day's work, in which he had experienced much fatigue, he was taken with severe headache, agitated sleep, abundant perspiration during the night. This state of things obliged him to remain quiet three or four days. The fourth day, going out to consult a physician, on coming home he felt very weak in his limbs, more particularly in the right foot. This was

the commencement of the paralysis. Four or five days later he was taken with a similar paralysis in the left foot, the hand, and the left arm; and in a less degree in similar portions of the right side. At the same time he experienced a sense of feebleness and lassitude in the loins. No similar sensation in any other part of the body. No pain in the various paralyzed localities; sensibility intact throughout; a perfect state of intelligence; micturition and defecation easy and regular; fever, copious sweats, augmentation of thirst, diminution of appetite; such were the symptoms of this affection at its commencement. The following was his exact condition the day he entered the hospital. With a little aid he can sustain himself upon his limbs and walk a few steps. He drags the right limb painfully; the left limb is stronger, and exercises its accustomed functions regularly.

Exploration of the muscles has determined the positive commencement of atrophy in the right foot and limb, and in the left fore arm and hand; the deltoid of the left side is also atrophied. The muscles of two other members, (the left limb and right arm) are also slightly atrophied, but in a less degree. They are all in a state of flaccidity. There also exists in the various paralyzed portions of the system, a little oedema, with a slight degree of redness in the right foot and left hand. The cutaneous sensibility, preserved throughout, is a little exaggerated in those parts that are the most atrophied (the right foot and left hand).

The movements of the right foot upon the leg are completely abolished. Flexion of the toes can be performed, but with difficulty and only partially; their extension is impossible. All the movements are preserved, but feebly in the left foot; they are almost intact in the two sides of the leg and the thigh, preserved, but feebly, in the arm, forearm, and hand of the right side. The separation and bringing together again of the fingers is accomplished quite easily. The left arm can scarcely be moved from the trunk, the fore-arm will not move upon the arm; slight movements of pronation; no movements of the hand upon the fore-arm; slight flexion of the fingers is alone possible.

The general symptoms which this patient exhibited at the commencement of his disease, have somewhat ameliorated for the past few days; the feebleness in the loins has disappeared; the headache persists, but with some remission; the pulse 100, small, equal and

regular; there was no apparent trouble in the principal functions.

The "ventouses," nux vomica, and scarification, the scarificators being dipped in strychnine, were prescribed. Under the probable influence of these means a very perceptible amelioration manifested itself about the beginning of January, 1856. About this time the patient commenced being able to walk, with the aid of a cane. Still the progress was less rapid in the superior members. It was not till about the month of May that he could extend the left arm from the trunk, and very slightly move the fore-arm upon the arm; but even now there was no movement in the hand and fingers. The extension of the right hand upon the right arm was still incomplete.

It was then that recourse was had to electricity, which has been continued up to the present time.

It was only towards the close of the month of November that the patient could effect any more extensive movements with the left arm, and completely extends the fore-arm upon the arm, and the hand upon the fore-arm.

The following is his present condition:

Still considerable atrophy of the four members, always more marked in the right foot and left arm.

Exaggerated cutaneous sensibility in some places; fibrous contraction in the atrophied muscles, determined by pinching or any other means of excitation whatever. There is almost no movement of the right foot upon the limb, and but a very feeble one in the toes of the same foot. This foot is almost inert in walking. Motion is somewhat complete in the left foot, which works regularly during walking. It is also good in the right arm, with the exception of abduction and extension of the thumb.

The fingers grasp with sufficient strength any object which they embrace. Still this member is not yet very useful. The extension of the fingers upon the metacarpus, and of the hand upon the fore-arm, is completely wanting on the left side. Flexion is scarcely more satisfactory; the extension and bringing together again of the fingers is possible to a certain extent; the flexion of the thumb is the only complete movement that the patient can execute. The left hand is much more atrophied than the right. With the exception of a little emaciation, nothing in his general condition has changed. The second patient, aged 23 years, a lemonade manufacturer, of strong constitution like the other, exposed by his mode of life

to the alternatives of heat and cold, some time previous to his attack, gave himself up to venereal and alcoholic excesses, and during the fifteen years which had preceded, he had been greatly fatigued by some long walks. Among other things, five years before, he had had the rheumatism in the right shoulder, and, a year later, in both shoulders. His attack commenced the 17th of March, 1856, by a single shivering, by a pricking sensation in the fingers of each hand, and by a greater sensibility to cold; some days after the same phenomena manifested themselves in the two feet. At the expiration of eight days, it was impossible for him to make use of his limbs; had severe pain the whole length of the vertebral column, no pain in his members, no head-ache, perfectly intelligent and sensible.

When the patient arrived at the hospital, it was the fifteenth day of his disease, and his condition had been stationary for eight days. The following was his condition, paralysis limited to the hands and feet, more marked in the exterior muscles; itching and tickling, particularly at night; nothing of the kind either in the arms or legs; dorsal pains, but only during the movements of the trunk; loss of sleep; fibrous contractions of the muscles of the arms and thighs, produced by pressure; sensibility intact; integrity of all the organic functions. Ordered to be bled; scarification along the neck. Two days afterwards, the patient was better and could walk alone.

From the 6th to the 15th of April, persistence of the itching, sometimes strongest in the hands and sometimes in the feet. Moderate sweats; new application of the scarificator.

From the 15th to the 23d, augmentation of the sweats; loss of sleep persists; the paralysis does not diminish sensibly. We determined the commencement of atrophy in the muscles of the foot and hand; more marked in the latter; itching in the arms and thighs analogous to those in the feet and hands. Moderate amelioration in the course of the month of May. Walk difficult and embarrassed; but limited use of the hands. After abundant blood-lettings, the itchings and burnings have diminished, but the paralysis has augmented. Digitalis, sulphate of quinine, nux vomica, and strychnine have been administered internally, the latter also by the endemic method. Finally, in the last three months, recourse has been had to electricity.

The following is his present state:

Considerable atrophy of the two hands, a little greater in the right hand perhaps than

the left; extension of the fingers of the right hand impossible; flexion possible, but feeble. Adduction and flexion of the thumb possible; extension and abduction impossible. The fingers can be separated and brought together; the movements of the entire hand and of the fore-arm are preserved. On the left side, extension of the hand and fist impossible; flexion feeble; abduction and extension of the thumb impossible. The tactile sensibility, which at first was exalted, is now entirely natural.

The inferior members, relatively to the inferior, present a notable amelioration. Standing is possible; walking and combined movements are executed very well; all movements of the toes are possible, though not quite so easily as in the natural state. In a word, the muscles of the feet are a little atrophied, feeble, but they are no longer paralyzed.

Such are the principal traits in the disease with which these two patients are suffering.—*Gazette des Hopitaux.*

EGUSE OIL, A NEW VEGETABLE PRODUCT FROM WEST AFRICA.

BY W. F. DANIELL, M.D., F.L.S.

The facility of intercourse established within the last few years between Sierra Leone, and the distant countries of Yorruba, has led to the introduction of several important plants into that colony. Many interesting productions have thus become naturalized, and successfully reared on the larger farms of the agricultural settler. The annual amount of produce recently furnished from these sources has been unusually great, and considerable attention has therefore been directed to a few of these products, the collection of which, by the mercantile communities of Western Africa, might prove sufficiently remunerative to answer for exportation to America. No doubt, however, can exist, that not only these, but other indigenous commodities, now comparatively unknown, and limited in utility, must, in the course of time, occupy no insignificant position among the exports from the African colonies.

Among the various cucurbitaceous plants in ordinary cultivation by the predial races of Haussa, Bornou, and other island kingdoms of Soudan, may be enumerated a few species of gourds, the seeds of which are not only help in universal esteem, but constitute lucrative articles of commerce, on account of their mani

fold economical appliances. Of these seeds two kinds were originally imported from Lagos, by the Yorrubean name of *Eguse*, and, though each kind was probably produced by a distinct plant, yet both were comprehended under the common designation of *Barra*. They soon became dispersed throughout the native villages by the Ako traders, and, not being difficult of culture, were extensively grown on the country farms and waste tracts of land, and are now profitably retailed by their inhabitants in the markets of Sierra Leone, where they are purchased with avidity, as one of the standard constituents of various country dishes.

The size and form of these seeds will easily point out their distinctive characters, and the particular product from which each sort can be obtained. The larger species are recognized by their exclusive appellation of "*male Eguse*," as the lesser, and other delicate varieties are, by the equally expressive term of "*female Eguse*." Both are planted in April or May, previously to the commencement of the rainy season, and the young shoots soon overrun a large extent of ground by their rapid and exuberant growth. As the plants attain their full development, numerous auxiliary clusters of pale yellow flowers appear in August and September, and continue increasing until December. The fruit of the "*male Eguse*" is a succulent gourd of an oblong or cylindrical shape, from twelve to eighteen inches in length, and four and five inches in diameter.* Embedded chiefly in the central portion of the pulp are numerous white, narrow ovate, and compressed seeds, nearly an inch long, enclosed in a tough coriaceous coat. They ripen in February and March, and frequently at a much earlier period. The "*female Eguse*" plant is usually attached to the fences of the village gardens, roofs of houses, or adjacent clearances, and both the fruits and the seeds are considerably less in magnitude than the preceding. The gourd also is pendulous, and of a more oval or globular form, sometimes oblong-obovate, and seldom exceeds six or eight inches in length. Both species of fruit are at first green, which, as they approach maturity, gradually changes into a greenish white, or pale straw color, and the rind then becomes exceedingly hard and solid.

These seeds, in a fresh state, possess an agreeable nutty flavor, approximating to that

of the young almond or hazel nut. Their bland and nutritious properties render them very palatable adjuncts to the native edibles, and so highly are they appreciated, that a ready sale is invariably commanded in the localities where they abound. From both kinds, but more especially from the "*female Eguse*," a valuable and wholesome oil is procured, of a rich golden hue, and of a somewhat pleasant taste. A few days after the gourds have been gathered, they are longitudinally divided into two equal parts, and either suspended from the roof over the fire, or exposed to the sun, to facilitate the evaporation of the fluid portion of the pulp. The seeds are then picked out of their fleshy beds, well dried in the sun, and preserved in covered calabashes.

The country process by which the oil is obtained is as follows. The seeds are first carefully divested of their external sheaths by gentle pounding in a wooden mortar. They are repeatedly washed, cleansed from impurities, dried in the sun, and partially parched in a pot over the fire. Thrown again into a mortar, the whole are beaten into a rough pulp, and finally rubbed between two stones until reduced to a fine paste. This is strongly compressed between the hands, when a certain quantity of oil oozes forth, and the paste frequently reparched over the fire, until successive manipulations exhaust all further supply. The oil is allowed to remain in the vessel for some time, to permit of its clarification. With the paste some native tribes occasionally mix a few eschalots, with bird pepper (*Capsicum frutescens* L.) and salt which bestows on the oil a peculiar piquancy.

Although *Eguse oil* is resorted to chiefly for dietetic purposes, and is introduced into the composition of many native dishes, especially with the preparation of Indian corn termed *Akarrah*, it is nevertheless often employed for various medicinal purposes. Yorrubean authorities assert that the habitual use of the seeds as an article of food exerts a beneficial influence on the intestinal canal, and, through acting as a gentle laxative, averts the attacks of dysentery and diarrhoea, which may probably be owing to its oleaginous and deobstruent qualities. As an emollient application, the oil has been considered, not only to soften the skin and render it cool, but to excel the oil of *Benne* (*Sesamum Orientale* L.) in relieving certain forms of leprous ulceration, and indurated cuticle, with which the inhabitants of several districts in Soudan are much afflicted.

Small cakes are made from the seeds in

* Closely resembling in form the vegetable marrow, *Cucurbita ovifera*, W.

Yorruba. The oil is sold in Abbeokuta at from two shillings to a dollar per gallon, according to the produce of the season. When pure it is an excellent substitute for salad oil, and is equally useful for the lamp, burning with a bright, clear flame.

G. Wilson, Esq., to whom samples of this oil have been submitted, expresses a favorable opinion of its commercial value, which he considers about equal (for burning purposes, &c.) with rape oil, although he doubts whether the market price would exceed the "East Indian seed oil known as *Sesame*." For the lubrication of machinery and other analogous appliances, he is also of opinion that its natural qualities are sufficiently valuable to merit attentive consideration.—*Chem. Gazette*.

PATENTED CURATIVE APPARATUS.

In August, 1835, the prolific mechanical ingenuity of the country appears to have been in a high state of activity, in reference to ameliorating the dilapidated condition of human constitutions, besides providing for the contingencies to which frail humanity is exposed in the way of accidents.

The government class all these anomalous contrivances, or, as they are specifically called, *inventions*, under the general title of *surgical and medical instruments*. But some of them have but a remote connection with either, as will be seen, in reading over the catalogue of specifications, recorded in the Patent Office, at Washington. The following were actually secured by patent:

An improvement in *Warm-Bath Apparatus*—by Louis H. Lefebvre.

An improvement in the pipes of *Vapor Baths*,—by Joseph Buhler.

An improvement in *Chairs for a Dentist's Use*, by Richard A. Stratton.

An improvement in *Dental Chairs*, by D. W. Perkins.

An improvement in the construction of *Ear Trumpets*, by Edward G. Hyde.

An improvement in instruments for *modifying the focal length of the Eye*, by Daniel Parish. The inventor claims that his instrument gives greater convexity to the eye, when flattened, (by age it is presumed,) and also by depressing that organ when too convex, in the manner specified.

Improvement in *Lancets*, by Henry Melish. He claims, in his declaration, the construction of a lancet, in combination with a

charger and piston inside its blade, for depositing vaccine or other matter in a puncture, made for that purpose, before the lancet is withdrawn.

Improvement in *Artificial Legs*, by Wm. H. Rhodes. He claims certain things in regard to the introduction of a coiled spring, which is of peculiar advantage to the wearer.

Improvement in the construction of *Artificial Legs*, by Addison Spaulding. He claims a certain knee-spring, an ankle-spring and a certain rod, &c., which are detailed in the specification.

Improvement in *Artificial Legs*, by John Taggart, assignee to himself and Theodore D. Parker. In this, the claim is for making the leg and foot without ankle joint.

Improvement in apparatus for administering Pulverized Medicines, by Jonas Moore and D. P. Adams. They claim a combination of machinery described, for the purpose of administering pulverulent substances, in cases of inflammation of the mouth and throat.

Improvement in *Obstetrical Extractor*, by Almond C. Buffum. He claims an instrument which, from the peculiar form of its fingers, and by means of three cross-bars, interlaced by straps, clasps and supports the head of the child, so that the force necessary to assist its delivery, can be applied without injury to mother or child.

Improvement in a *Pill-making Machine*, by Erasmus A. Pond. He claims the invention of a very curious, and a very difficult thing to describe.

Improvement in combination of *Injecting Syringes*, by Joseph Buhler. He says, "I do not claim any of the parts of this apparatus: but I claim the combination of the receiver (A) and pumps (C and D), provided with cocks (a and g) in the manner and for the purpose set forth." Of course nobody can have the least idea of the shape, utility or cost of the invention from his explanations.

Improvement in *Teeth*, by Sharpless Clayton. It relates to certain pins, grooves and holes in the teeth, for securing them firmly to each other.

Improvement in preparing *Artificial Teeth*, by Barclay Arney Satterthwait. He claims something about making half and whole of artificial teeth, gums and plate, entirely of porcelain. It is certainly a very close and ingenious imitation of nature, and no doubt has received the proper consideration of the best dental operatives long ago. One serious objection, however, comes up in this form: is there not

a constant liability to breaking the set in mastication?

Improvement in a *Hernial Truss*, by Wm. M. Bonwell. He claims the combination of the peculiarly formed hoop, with an umbilical pad and strap, for the purpose of preventing the movements of the body from displacing the pad in either umbilical or inguinal hernia.

Improvements in *Pads in Inguinal Trusses*, by Lucien E. Hicks, to himself and Hiram M. Hall. An India rubber pneumatic truss pad, without opening or valve, filled with compressed air, is the principal point in this invention.

Improvement in *Hernial Trusses*, by E. B. Grayham. The patentee claims a new method of adjusting and securing the pads to any desirable position.

Improvement in *Uterine Supporters*, by Henry A. Rasenthal. In this, the instrument is composed of two supporting leaves, rather ingeniously devised.

How much may have been accomplished in this line in 1856, has not yet become a subject of inquiry. Certain it is, however, there has been no slumbering of the inventive faculty of the people. Each and all are habitually in pursuit of labor-saving machines; and those here particularized belong to that category. Perhaps, in the next series, something of more general interest, or at least of more general utility, may be presented to the reader through these columns.

OVARIOTOMY.

To a correspondent in Georgia, Dr. Simpson, we are indebted for a report of the following successful operation, performed by Dr. Stotesbury, about a year since, but which seems not to have appeared in any of the medical journals, and therefore cannot be otherwise than interesting surgical intelligence.

The patient, Mrs. F——, aged 25, living in Effingham county, became aware of a tumor, occupying the right iliac region, about two months after the birth of her first child. This tumor gradually increased for ten months; during this period she was examined by Dr. Wildman, of Savannah, who pronounced it an ovarian tumor. Being satisfied on this point, the gradual increase of the size demanded some early attention. After free and candid explanation of the dangers attending the operation, the patient was not only willing, but rather solicitous for the operation of ovariectomy.

Accordingly on the 17th of February, the Dr., accompanied by another physician and surgeon, proceeded to the house of the patient, and after making all the necessary arrangements, administered the chloroform and ether combined, and in ten minutes had her fully under its influence and perfectly insensible. He commenced the incision at the umbilicus and continued it to the pubis; this location for the opening was selected rather than that immediately over the tumor, in order to prevent hemorrhage, which would have been inevitable if it had been in the linea semilunaris, or near that part of the abdomen. This cut, which was six inches in length, along the linea alba, was not followed by the discharge of a table-spoonful of blood. The loss of this precious fluid was not one-fourth of an ounce in the whole operation, which fact shows conclusively the wisdom of his choice in the point for the cut.

After carefully cutting through the skin and adipose tissue, and separating the recti muscles, he divided the peritoneum and exposed at once the epiploon, which he also cut, and then pushing aside the smaller intestines, exposed the tumor, which had extended up into the hypochondriac region. On grasping this, the doctor pronounced it to contain a fluid, and to be very extensive in its adhesions; by farther examination the tumor was found to involve the right ovary and the surrounding ligaments, especially the broad ligaments of the womb. The adhesions were so extensive that it was thought imprudent to attempt dissecting out the sack; death must have been the consequence. The tumor was accordingly tapped, by introducing the trocar. After exposing the tumor to the incision, about one quart of fluid, quite transparent, was drawn off, the opening into the abdomen closed up by sutures and adhesive strips and compress and bandage applied, and in half an hour after the operation, the patient gradually aroused herself to consciousness, and seemed in good condition. The sponge, well saturated with the chloroform and ether, was often applied during the three quarters of an hour while the operation was in progress, the husband of the patient holding the sponge as directed.

The patient was discharged in eleven days, and in five weeks was perfectly well; and it has since been proven that at the time of the operation, the patient was one month gone in pregnancy.

FUNGUS HÆMATODES OF THE TESTIS.

John O'Reilly, M. D., of New-York, reports the following case in Dr. Rees's Amer. Med. Gazette :

On the 7th of November last I was requested to visit Mr. J—n C—f—d, who stated he was 27 years old, and was privately married about three months previously, much to the annoyance of his father and brothers. He said he enjoyed excellent health up to about three weeks before my visit, when he was attacked with pain in the right testicle ; that the pain, accompanied by swelling, continued to increase up to the fifth day, when he applied to a Doctor, who opened the testicle freely with a lancet, and gave vent to a large quantity of "bloody matter" ; directed poultices to be applied to the part, and ordered him some medicine. He said the Doctor continued his attendance up to the 3d of November, when he discontinued his visits. His friends next advised him to send for me. I should observe here, that, on going to the patient's house, I had the Doctor sent for, when he wrote a note declining further interference in the case. The state of the patient at this time was truly dreadful and alarming. His countenance was sunken and compressed, deeply tinged with a dark leaden hue, indicative of pain, anxiety and distress. His pulse was quick, small and compressible ; he was breathing an atmosphere charged with a most abominable and offensive stench, generated by the loathsome and frightful disease with which he was afflicted. His powers of life were fast ebbing, and, to use his own words, he "neither ate nor drank for the last three weeks." On examination, a fearful spectacle presented itself. A large dark-colored fungus protruded through the opening made in the scrotum, which was put completely on the stretch by the diseased testis. A considerable quantity of disagreeable ichor was continually oozing, and on two occasions hemorrhage to a large amount had occurred. I now frankly told the patient and his relatives that he must die shortly, unless something was done for his relief ; that a bare chance existed for the prolongation of his life by the extirpation of the parts affected. I urged a consultation, and on the following day had the able advice of the highly distinguished Professor Mott, who concurred with me in opinion as to the propriety of giving the patient the benefit of a doubt. Ac-

cordingly on Wednesday, the 11th of October, in presence of Professor Mott, Drs. Gallagher and Sheridan, and assisted by Messrs. Poyntz, and O'Meagher, I proceeded to the removal of the testicle. Having made two elliptical incisions, commencing from the external abdominal ring, I next exposed the cord, which was preternaturally thickened as high up as the external ring. At this juncture very little advantage appeared to be derivable from the operation ; however, I transfixed the cord with a ligature, divided it, and easily finished the operation. Having secured the spermatic artery, I looked for the artery of the vas deferens, but it gave no blood, and did not require a ligature. Professor Mott now hinted that he thought the disease would return, as the cord seemed to be involved in the mischief ; and though being of the same opinion myself, I still determined to make a further effort to extirpate if possible the contaminated part that remained. I made traction by means of the ligature, drew down the cord and tied it, at least an inch higher up, at a place where it appeared to be sound ; by this manoeuvre the cord was secured close to the internal ring.—The wound was now approximated, and lint wet with water applied ; some hemorrhage took place in two hours after, from a branch of the external pudic artery, which yielded to compression applied by my assistant ; two sutures were then inserted and water dressing applied. From the date of the operation the patient never had a bad symptom, the wound healed kindly, was completely cicatrized on the 20th of December, and Mr. C—f—d walked out and dined with his father on Christmas day. When I saw him last he looked well and healthy ; he said he felt as strong as he ever did in his life. I am sure he increased at least twelve pounds in weight. I should have stated that he was well supported by nutritious regimen and porter during convalescence.

This case is a remarkable one, on account of the rapid growth of the diseased testicle, which on being removed was found to weigh three and a half pounds. I sent a portion of it to Dr. Isaacs, who examined it under the microscope, and found it to be composed of true cancerous cells. It is quite clear that as long as the disease was located in the body of the gland, and firmly pressed by the strong fibrous covering of the tunica albuginea, its increase was prevented ; but as soon as the barrier of its imprisonment was rent asunder by the incision, it shot out with furious and de-

structive celerity ; otherwise how could it, only weighing from six to eight drachms, be multiplied in weight to three and a half pounds in three weeks and three days ? Another thing which strikes me as apparent, is, that a larger quantity of blood was conveyed to the testicle by the arteries, than was returned by the veins. The connection between the capillaries must have been interrupted, or in other words, the balance of the circulation must have been destroyed. In this case no arteries required to be secured but one, the spermatic, which was not increased in calibre. Now if the blood was circulated through a structure weighing three and a half pounds, in the usual way, the vessel should be in proportion to the extent of the parts supplied with blood, and form a strong contrast to the vessels supplying an organ only about an ounce in weight. The description given of *Fungus Hæmatodes* by Mr. Hey is as correct as any given since.— All the parts it attacks are disorganized, and converted into a substance resembling brain and putrid coagulated blood mixed up together ; it is quite evident the circulation is not carried on in the proper current when the blood is found extravasated so extensively.— This would appear to be a wise provision of nature to guard the constitution, inasmuch as if the same quantity of blood was circulated through a fungus hæmatodes weighing three and a half pounds, as through the brain or liver, and returned to the centre of the circulation, the result would be that the whole system would be very quickly poisoned in consequence of so much blood passing through such a mass of diseased substance.

I presume that the virus of fungus hæmatodes is implanted in the several parts of the body, on the same principle as pus is in pyæmia, that it is conveyed through the circulation, and deposited at certain places, where it remains dormant for a certain time. It will be perceived I tied the vessels of the cord in the first instance as advised by British and American Surgeons, but eventually secured the whole cord, a practice sanctioned by the French ; I did so on the principle that in case I cut the cord so close to the ring, the vessels would retract within the abdomen, when I might not be able to secure them. I preferred adopting this course to the one recommended by Ledran, of slitting up the inguinal canal to the iliac fossa. I should have stated that the disease in the cord was more apparent than real, the cellular tissues surrounding it being greatly infiltrated, whereby its appear-

ance and dimensions were greatly altered.— On subsequent examination of the cord no trace of malignant disease could be discovered until it reached the epididymis, or rather I should say, superior part of the tumor, when it was at once lost. Here I should observe that the epididymis and the body of the testicle were confounded together.

Up to this time the case is highly satisfactory, but whether it will continue so remains to be seen. If the testimony of Mr. Paget, Professor Walsh, and Sir. Benj. Brodie, is to be relied on, a return of the disease is almost inevitable, whilst Sir Astley Cooper and others hold out encouragement in similar cases, provided the cord is not involved in the disease.

ANCIENT MEDICAL RECIPES.

Certain persons can hardly believe, although they live in the middle of the nineteenth century, and to whom the wonders of steam and electricity are familiar, that we have distanced our respectable ancestors in scientific knowledge. We purpose offering a few illustrations of the way in which that knowledge was applied to medical uses.

The science of judicial astrology has few votaries now ; natural philosophy is based on rather surer principles than of yore ; and the healing art opened upon something more positive than spells. Oliver Goldsmith has said in the "Citizen of the World," that the epidemic of England is the fear of mad dogs. The apprehension appears to be of old date, for the receipt books of our ancestors are filled with remedies against their bite. We select two examples, one simply medicinal, the other purely occult : "A cataplasm made of nutts, with an onion, salt and honey, helpeth the biting of a madd dogg." We should value this receipt more than we do, if we could feel quite certain who it is intended to benefit ; for as the sentence stands, it appears doubtful, whether the object be to assist dogs in biting or patients in recovering.

The charm receipt is not a very difficult one to remember : — "For the bite of a madd dogg, say Lemus, lamus, remus, ramus, oxilogue !" It is to be presumed that this formula must be uttered before you are bitten : few dogs, we conceive, would be mad enough to bite the person who repeated it.

This view of the case is confirmed by what you are advised to do after the bite has been actually perpetrated : — "Charme for those

who are madd, man or beast. The haire being cutt off, lay betony to the mould of the head. Then wright theis words *on a peece of cheese*, Antarbragon, tetragrammaton, and give the party so diseased." The art of writing on cheese is one of the secrets which, unfortunately, our ancestors have not handed down to us.

Having made our patient sane, let us see what the MS. recommends to keep him so. "At such time as menne sow beanes, take a beane and put it into the harte of a black catt, being reddy rosted. Then bury it in a dunghill; and, when they be ripe, carry one about thee, and thou shalt never goe madd."

We regret to remark, that in all these simple and easy remedies, there is always some obscurity as to the manner of reducing them to practice. What we want to know here is, which is to be roasted, the bean, or the cat's heart? Roasting beans is a very familiar process, as all coffee-dealers know. Cats, too, have been roasted, as Spanish novelists assure us; so there is no difficulty about the cookery. But the question remains — which? We pass over the pleasant notion of carrying about one's person an article that has been so agreeably inhumed, and merely observe, that we think it impossible anybody could *go mad* who adopted this remedy.

Our ancestors stood greatly in fear of being poisoned; and perhaps in the days when a pair of perfumed gloves could quietly accomplish the poisoner's purpose, they were not so far wrong. Here is a remedy for a poisoned wound: "Take a toad and put it into a glass, and stopp it very close; inclose this glass in some earthen vessel filled full with sand, thereby the better to prevent it breaking; so sett it over the fire till it be consumed to ashes, and apply them to the place wounded, and it is a present remedy." Slightly cruel, so far as the toad is concerned, but that is a trifle.

Let us try another for the bite of a scorpion; it is worthy of king Midas. "Saye to an asse, secretly, and as it were whispering in his eare, 'I am bitten with a scorpion.'" A remedy which gives rise to such natural good-fellowship deserves to be a successful one.

Amongst the most annoying disorders of the olden time, the colic was preëminent. That universal specific, "punch," had not then been discovered, and our ancestors were limited to colder prescriptions. The MS. says: "Olde decrepit cockes have softer flesh than those which are younger; and a pottage thereof is held good for the colick passion." Nobody

would greatly object to this, but the next cure for the same complaint is not quite so pleasant; it suggests the remark that the remedy is worse than the disease. "Horse-dung, drunk in wine, will prevent the colick." Few persons afflicted with the ailment would, we fancy, be inclined to try the antidote; but our ancestors were not the nicest in their tastes. Many of their receipts, though simple, were comprehensive. "The juice of pomegranates dropped in the eyes is a remedy for the yellow jaundice." "If the feet of those that have the gout be washed with the broth of turnips, it will mitigate the pain." Here is a quaint intimation. "Asparagus doth mollify the belly gently." We should imagine the next remedy to be of doubtful efficacy. "To heare *well*, stop up the ears with good dry sewet."

Here is one for the headache: "Tie a halter about your head wherewith one hath been hanged." Tied a little lower, it would cure not only the headache, but all "the ills that flesh is heir to!" The next is invaluable for nurses, especially if they be Irish ones: "A charme for the chincough—Take three sips of a chalice when the priest has said masse, and swallow it down with good devotion." We should like to know what is in the chalice.

Agues are cured in various ways. The following is one of them: "Take a crust of bread, and write these three words following, and, after they be writ, eat them: calinda, calindun, calindant." Here the only difficulty that strikes us is the old calligraphic one—how do you write on bread? With a toasting fork?

Cornelius Agrippa, a name held in great veneration by our ancestors, has written a great deal upon all the above subjects. One or two extracts from his "Occult Philosophy," will show what kind of wisdom he encouraged:

"The strings of an instrument made of the gutts of a wolfe, and being strained upon a harp, or lute, with the strings made of a sheep's gutts, will make no harmony." Whoever sang to this instrument, we should think, would naturally howl. But the next is perhaps the pleasantest receipt that we ever met with. "A cup of liquor being made with the brains of a bear, and drunke out of the scull, shall make him that drinks it be as fierce and as raging as a bear, and think himself to be changed into a bear, and judge all things to be bears; and so continue in that madness until the force of the draught shall be dissolved, no *other* distemper being all this while perceived in him." The ursomania appears to us to be distemper enough for the time. We believe in this re-

ceipt, for we have seen people who have taken a "cup of liquor" too much, behave themselves exactly like bears.

POPULARIZING SCIENCE.

Acting upon a perverted construction of the poetic maxim—

"A little learning is a dangerous thing,
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring"—

certain modern philosophers condemn every effort made to popularize scientific knowledge. The class is fortunately a small one, and generally consists of those materials which aim to make up in noise and declamation what they lack in learning and common sense. Their shafts are aimed at our systems of education, and especially those systems of popular education which provide equally for the instruction of rich and poor. Certain religionists, clothed in garbs of sacerdotal dignity, suffer their weak minds to be shocked by the idea of affording instruction to the masses indiscriminately, and wonder what use learning can be to the poor. If they wish to know anything that is proper for them to know, let them come to us, is the doctrine of these religious philosophers. Political philosophers are not less kind and considerate. Why should voters be educated? We are ever ready to harangue them in reference to their political rights and duties, and to dictate to them their political opinions. Adepts in natural and moral philosophy, mathematicians, astronomers, &c., often take higher ground, and contend that learning is for the learned, and labor the distinctive privilege of the masses of mankind. But, more surprising than all, physicians are sometimes known to condemn the study of great mysteries of animal organization and function. They rejoice in the reflection, that people live and die in utter ignorance of those branches of medical science, a knowledge of which enables them to adopt proper measures for the preservation of health, and for the relief of disease. This it is which makes many of our prominent men homœopaths, hydropaths, eclectics, botanics, &c., and leads vast numbers of all classes to depend upon charlatanry in preference to scientific medicine. These evils can only be remedied by a more general diffusion of such knowledge as has been in all time most neglected. Science must be popularized, and made easy of comprehension by those who alone are capable of doing it, the most learned

and scientific; and mere smatterers, who know little, and are jealous of that little, should be content to be learners still; for it is to such only that

"A little learning is a dangerous thing."

Memp. Med. Record.

COMMUNICATIONS.

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER IX.—BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Clergymen should be acquainted with diseased minds—Their special charge over the sick—Mather and Burroughs—Insanity hereditary—Many are insane on one thing—The true cause of Millerism and Spiritualism—Men have supposed themselves beasts, dogs, cats, wolves—Cruden—Curiosity of the insane in concealing their malady—Improved treatment of the insane—How to prevent insanity and escape mental decay—Combine study with amusement—The poet and the philosopher—Religious excitement sometimes causes insanity—Cause of fatuity in old age—Why called lunacy—Insanity usually comes on gradually—Incipient symptoms of insanity.

Insanity is a mental disease with which clergymen have much to do. Indeed, quite as large a proportion of their profession, comparing it with the whole number of other classes, in the opinion of the writer, become insane. In an institution where he was a "Director," some little time since, out of one hundred and sixty patients, three had been of the clerical profession.

Not long since, he was called to visit, professionally, at a friend's house in this city, a clergyman, an old acquaintance. He had just escaped from a "Lunatic Asylum." He was very feeble, but perfectly sane. "What," said he, "Doctor, do you think would be the effect of a man's jumping from a window, three stories high and falling upon his feet on the frozen ground?" The reply was, "it would give him a pretty good shaking." "I tried that experiment last night," said he. He had made his escape, with his face blackened, and with carpet-bag in hand, and taken the cars, by which he arrived in this city. It was afterwards ascertained that, he did not jump the whole distance from a three-story window to the ground, but that, by making a ladder of his bed-clothing, he lowered himself, at least, half the distance.

Several clergymen have been known to become insane. But, if such were not the case,

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

there are reasons, arising from their professional duties, which demand of them some knowledge of such cases. Indeed, it is in these mental diseases; these "hurt minds"; these shattered nerves and distracted spirits, that the duties of the clergyman and the physician pre-eminently meet. It was part of the commission of those whom the Saviour first sent out to preach, "As ye go, heal the sick;" and, it is a well-known fact that for many centuries the office of the minister of the Gospel and the physician was filled by the same person; and some have even doubted whether anything has been gained, either to the church, or the world, by removing these ancient "landmarks;" or, by divorcing what the "Great Head of the Church" first "joined together," in the great commission of preaching the Gospel. But be this as it may, one point is certain. He was the great "Physician," and "went about doing good, healing all manner of diseases among the people." In his "labors of love," under the grand diploma which he received from heaven, no class of persons partook more largely of his benefactions than did the *insane*. The maniac, who had fled from the abode of man, and who had his "dwelling among the tombs; whom no man could bind, no, not with chains—who had often been bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces,—neither could any man tame him; and always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and among the tombs, crying and cutting himself with stones"—this raving maniac was healed by this great "Physician," and was "found sitting at the feet" of his Deliverer, "clothed, and in his right mind." The same was the case with the *epileptic* child, who "often fell into the fire, and into the water, and who wallowed foaming," before Christ, when brought to him by his distressed father. As had the first commissioned ministers of the cross much to do with distempered imaginations, diseased brains, and insane minds, so have all their successors in office from that day to the present; and, far better would it have been for the world, and more creditable to the church, if modern clergymen had understood more of the true character of mental diseases. Had *Cotton Mather* understood the nature of diseased minds, when his brother clergyman, *Burroughs*, was "hung, at Salem, for witchcraft," he would have allowed the people to have heard the address of the dying martyr, instead of declaring it to be "the words of the devil, speaking through" his

reverend brother. Happily for the world, and for "Christ's sake," too, most modern clergymen are better enlightened on the subject of mental diseases, than were their predecessors.

Excessive study tends to mental derangement, engorging the brain and capillary vessels of the head with an undue proportion of blood. The mental excitement and anxiety of clergymen, to which allusion has formerly been made, tend to produce the same effect. Derangements of the digestive organs, and, even constipation of the bowels have produced insanity.

Dr. Edward Jarvis, who has given much attention to insanity, has enumerated eighty causes of this disease, and, probably, there are still others not named by him. It is not necessary here to repeat the catalogue. Suffice it to say, in a person *predisposed to insanity*, an apparently small cause may excite the disease. It should be distinctly understood that insanity is *hereditary*. We mean by the use of this term *here*, precisely what we said, when speaking of *consumption*, as a hereditary disease, viz., a *predisposition* to this disease. Such a condition of the bodily organs and mental powers, as may readily result in insanity. That such is the natural condition of certain families, no well-informed physician can, and no clergyman ought to doubt.

Esquerol, a distinguished physician, says, "One half the cases of insanity, among the wealthy, arise from a *hereditary* family taint, kept up by intermarriages among the same kindred, to keep the property in the family." He, also, says, "he has found seven sisters and brothers in one family who were insane." *Halsam* mentions ten families, in every one of which several cases of mental derangement occurred. The writer has had personal knowledge of a family, where the father and two children committed suicide, in mental derangement, and one, or more of the remaining children have been insane. Indeed, this fact of hereditary tendency to insanity should never be overlooked in intermarriages; nor, should it be, in reference to anything which would naturally tend to produce this disease.

The *predisposition* to insanity is generally found in families of dark hair and dark complexion.

The *liability* to insanity is the greatest between the ages of twenty and forty years, and a larger number become insane between twenty five and thirty, than in any other five years of life.

We have called insanity a disease. This

term needs to be explained. It is not intended to convey the idea that, it is one, and the same disease. By no means. It is not generally composed of the same elements; nor, do any two cases present the same form; nor, the same case, the identical expression, at different times. It presents all phases and all degrees, from the slightest alienation, up to the entire dethronement, or loss of reason. Though insanity may have generally the same form and elements, yet the *combinations* of these elements are numberless.

This is a point which is too often overlooked. The *monomaniac*, we call insane on one subject. Such persons are sometimes found; but, generally, the wall of partition between sanity and insanity is broken down in more than one place. Reason is lost on more than one subject. Still, monomaniacs are numerous.

Many, never supposed to be insane, however, are so, upon some points. We have seen a man insane upon the subject of *religion*, and upon nothing else. He would talk for hours on any other subject, and appear perfectly sane. But the moment religion was named, his reason left him.

Dr. Eberle says, "I knew a man who for more than twenty years supposed himself to be the President of the United States."

Professor Fetch, of Jenna, continued to lecture in the University, long after he believed himself to be the Emperor of Rome, and Judge Edmonds sat upon the bench, some time, after he was deranged with his "spiritual" hallucinations.

We promised, in a former number, to assign, in its proper place, the cause or reason for certain abnormal conditions of mind, as we find them manifested in society. This is the proper place for those reasons; and, as a specimen of what represents a whole tribe, whose name is "legion," we will select modern "*Spiritualism*."

Several clergymen have written and published upon this subject — thus, the *Rev. Mr. Beecher*, and the *Rev. William R. Gordon*, D. D. ascribe it to "the influence of the devil," and the *Rev. President Mahan*, to "*Odylic Force*," and the *Rev. Mr. Corning* to, he knows not what. Now, these opinions, of this vagary of diseased minds, forcibly remind one of good "Cotton Mather riding around, at the execution of Burroughs, and exhorting the people not to listen to him, because it was the *devil speaking through Burroughs*."

It is a little singular that, at such a day as

this, we should have returned so nearly to the vain imaginings of those dark days of New England's shame. But many an insane man, (I mean *insane* upon one subject) has been the executioner of a *sane* one, as was "Mather" in the case of "Burroughs."

These "spiritual rappers" are insane upon this subject, and this is their pitiable case. When they get a little further advanced, and become insane upon some other points, they are taken up and sent to a "lunatic asylum." This has been the case with many. But they were no more REALLY insane *then*, than they were before; it was only an increase, or extension of the same disease, which existed equally before in *kind*, but not in *degree*.

Some insane persons imagine themselves transformed into inferior animals. Such was the case of Nebuchadnezzar, "eating grass," and the daughter of the "King of Argives," described in Virgil. The same was the case with a nobleman in the court of Louis XIV, who imagined himself a *dog*, and would pop his head out of the window and bark at the passengers. Similar was the case of those of whom Lorenzo Dow gave a description, some years since, at the camp-meetings of the West. They had the "*shaking*" disease — he says, "many who went to mock, kicked and shook with others, all the while cursing the power which produced these effects." Krolin and Hequet have recorded a malady by which the inmates of an extensive convent, near Paris, were simultaneously attacked every day, at the same hour; when they believed themselves transformed into *cats*, and a universal mewing was kept up throughout the convent for several hours. But, probably, the most strange and direful form which this kind of insanity, or hallucination, ever took, was, when the impression spread over a large portion of Europe that, the people were *wolves*, and the miserable sufferers went prowling about the forests, uttering the most terrific howlings, carrying off lambs from the flocks, and gnawing dead bodies in their graves.

Hundreds of other cases might be cited, in which all would say, these poor creatures were insane upon these particular subjects. But they were not a whit more so in reality (though they might have been in degree) than are the "spiritual rappers," "mesmerizers," and "Simon Maguses," of our day; or, than many who walk our streets and attend, more or less, to their business. Hundreds are insane on some one point, though it may be unknown either to themselves, or their friends.

I here quote some of the many cases which often appear in the journals of the day:—
 “*Rev. Joshua Upson*, of Dayton, Ohio, became infected with the ‘spiritual’ disease, some time ago, and, under the impression that he was directed so to do, by ‘spirits,’ abstained from eating, and actually died of starvation.”

All will admit insanity, in such a case. But was he any more insane, in *reality*, than all who believe in the “spiritual” mania? It is admitted he might have been so, in an augmented degree, but not a whit more in reality.

Rev. S. G. Ricker went to “Kansas,” was robbed of fifteen hundred dollars, and returned a maniac, and is now in the Lunatic Hospital, at South Boston.

The Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, at Utica, N. Y., says, “Insanity is fearfully on the increase in that State.” Recently, within five days, seventeen new patients were admitted into this institution; the greatest number ever before admitted in so brief a space of time. There is no doubt but that this increase is owing, in a great measure, to the excitement caused by the “spiritual,” and other kindred humbugs of the day.

It may be asked, why do this and other hallucinations reach some of the well-educated and higher classes in community? The answer is, because among all classes there are those unfortunate persons in whom the *nervous* temperament predominates, and tyrannically rules over all the mental faculties, and renders them highly susceptible to “spiritual-medium” influences. Such persons are more highly charged with magnetism than common sense, and hence, readily become *monomaniacs*.

The editor of “The Medical World,” in a recent number, well says, “Two harmless monomaniacs have been permitted to intrude themselves into all circles and places in this region, for the past few years, who announced themselves Presidential candidates. One of them has finally been provided for in a hospital.”

But he has been thus diseased for years; and so are many others who still go at large.

Alexander Cruden, a Scotchman, well-known to the clergy, as the author of the largest and best “Concordance of the Bible” ever printed, during the pursuance of his theological studies, fell so desperately in love with a worthless daughter of a clergyman, of Aberdeen, that his friends were obliged to send him into confinement. Whether this malady was really excited by love, or not, it followed him, occasionally, during his life; and yet, he was

one of the best and most inoffensive of men, and went through with a literary operation which alone would be sufficient to crack the brain of any student of our day. Speaking of his relinquishing his studies for the ministry, his biographer has the following sage remark: “Possibly, some symptoms of that aberration of mind, which more strongly discovered itself, at a subsequent period of his life, rendered the abandonment of a *profession so replete with mental anxiety and labor*, when its duties are properly performed, highly prudential, if not essentially necessary.”

Nor is it any proof that a person is not insane on some point, because he has great power and tact in concealing it. The insane are often brighter and more sprightly, on many points, than they ever were before. I have often heard a man preach who was subject to periodical excitement, frequently amounting to insanity. When he was not *too far* excited, or, only sufficiently so to rouse up his *nervous* energy, he was most powerful — such pathetic eloquence would burst from his lips, accompanied by such apparent emotion, that every eye would be wet, and every heart touched, and the admiring hearer would depart saying, “That is the connecting link between angels and men, and *that* eloquence was from the *angelic* part of him.”

The insane have great acuteness in disguising their malady. In a case of madness, tried before “Lord Mansfield,” the patient evaded questions in court, for a whole day, and seemed perfectly sane to all present. But *Dr. Batty*, who knew the particular point upon which he was deranged, was called into court and asked him “What had become of the princess with whom he had been in the habit of corresponding in cherryjuice and thrown them into the stream below, where the princess had received them in a boat?” In a moment he was thrown off his guard, and confessed that, “Having been confined in a castle, where he was deprived of pen and ink, he had written his epistles in cherry juice, and thrown them into the stream, where the princess had received them in a boat.” Yet this same man evaded all the questions of one of England’s most acute judges for a whole day.

“Lord Erskine” could not catch a man on any question, who maintained that he was *the Christ*, till *Dr. Simms* discovered his hallucination.

“I understand,” said an insane woman to the medical “visitor” to the Institution, “that you are the medical attendant here, and that one

of your duties is to see that no person is here improperly confined. Now, sir, as I assert that such is my condition, gauge my intellect."

When insanity is brought on from hard study, the patient rarely ever recovers.

The *treatment* of insane persons has been much improved within the last thirty years. Within the recollection of the writer, the course pursued with this class of persons was chaining, whipping, half-drowning; and the *medical* treatment was but little better. It consisted in *depleting*, by bleeding, and physicking, &c., a course always tending from bad to worse, in all *nervous* affections. It is now well understood, that the *milder* the treatment, both hygienic and medical, the better for the patient. Much praise is due to the directors, superintendents, and all who have the management of asylums for the insane, for their kind efforts, and great success in alleviating their deplorable condition.

Still every one confined in an asylum desires to be liberated. I have yet to find an exception; and, notwithstanding all the modern improvements in the condition of the insane, I would say of it as *Cowper* of the *Sofa* and the *Gout* —

"The sofa suits the gouty limb;
But gouty limb, though, on a sofa,
May I never feel."

So, if it be the will of Heaven, may *I* ever be spared the horrors of a lunatic asylum, with all its blessings.

In connexion with insanity and the decay of the mental powers, a question of some moment arises; that is, *how* can insanity be avoided, and those powers preserved?

The answer is, by never overtasking them; and by keeping them from rusting by a proper degree of activity; and, by placing the body in such condition that, it shall not injure the mind.

First, then, let the mind never be overtasked. The brain, the seat of the intellect, much resembles the muscles — exercise invigorates, strengthens, refreshes. Intense labor fatigues, exhausts. Intense thought, or emotion of any kind tends to produce insanity. On this point, an intelligent writer has just given the following note of warning. "In one of our lunatic asylums, there are now several gentlemen who were one year ago in full health and active business, and, in each of these cases, mental alienation is traceable directly to overworking the brain. They are men of wealth and social eminence, and, until their sad affliction, were distinguished for usefulness in the church and

the community. But, to these we must add, perhaps, thousands of cases in which premature old age, and mental imbecility, have arisen from similar causes."

The case of *Sir Walter Scott* is a wonderful verification of the same sentiment. With a giant intellect, and a more than Mercury's swiftness in imagination, embarrassed in the decline of life, the brain tasked to labor beyond its willing supply, sunk; and the towering Polyphemus of all writers of fiction, died a bodily wreck — a mental idiot.

The same has been the fate of many clergymen. Their mental labor and excessive emotion have early broken down their intellects. Pope, who was a rare genius, by excessive study, fell into a state of exhaustion, a sort of torpid, indistinct existence; and it was only by totally relinquishing study, and by riding on horseback, that he regained comparative health. Sir Humphrey Davy, by over-excitement of the brain, in his chemical researches, brought on a severe illness, in which both body and mind participated. *Byron* has the following touching lines upon the course of Henry Kirk White —

"Oh! what a noble heart was here undone,
When Science self-destroyed her favorite son!
Yes, she too much indulged thy fond pursuit,
She sowed the seeds, but Death has reaped the fruit.
'Twas thine own genius gave the final blow,
And helped to plant the wound that laid thee low."

But, in the second place, the mind must not be withdrawn entirely from its wonted stimulus. It must not be allowed to *rust*. Intellectual exercise and mental relaxation must go hand in hand, or rather alternate, and it has been by a wise *mingling* of these two, that mathematicians and philosophers have usually lived to old age. With Sir Isaac Newton, study and recreation were prophylactic, and prevented him from breaking down, or from becoming insane. Thus he lived to his eighty-fifth year. Upon this principle, old Plato called "mathematical demonstrations, the purgatives of the soul." Lord Bacon said, "If a man's wits be wandering, let him study mathematics."

The *poet* is much more liable to become insane than the philosopher. His imagination is ever *flying*, while his reasoning powers seldom act. Twenty poets become mentally diseased to one philosopher.

Religion, falsely so called, has often produced insanity. The mind, perhaps, weak by nature, overwhelmed with sorrow, depressed by the loss of friends, or disappointed by living dead ones, retires within itself — reflection and meditation enhance its already over-

stretched powers, and insanity follows. Reason abandons the helm, and *suicide* is often the result. But, at the same time, the migratory holder-forth, with vociferous speech, and apparently super-abounding zeal, while he frightened hundreds into insanity, would never shake, either by thought, or anxiety, a single nerve in his own system.

Fatuity in old age arises from want of that employment which has occupied the earlier years of life. This is sometimes found in aged retired clergymen. Accustomed during the early part of life, and in the maturity of manhood, to all the labor, care and anxiety of a parish, when the people no longer wish to hear them preach, and force them into retirement, the mind is very liable to decay. We can call to mind more than one case of this kind, in which, fatuity has been the result.

There is much weight in the following reply of an aged clergyman, when his people informed him that they did not wish him to preach any more,—“Why, surely, after I have been a minister for forty-five years, I can *preach* as well as I can do *any thing*.” The best way to preserve the mental powers is to keep them actively employed.

That eccentric and wonderful man, Dean Swift, died an idiot; and Dr. Samuel Johnson ascribed his fatuity to two causes:—first, to an early resolution that, he would never wear spectacles, which precluded him from reading, in the decline of life; and, secondly, to his avarice, which led him to exclude visitors, or to deny himself company. In this manner, he deprived himself of all food for the mind. Hence, it languished and collapsed into idiocy. He died in the hospital, which he had himself founded for just such persons as he became. Clergymen, who reside in the city, are not so likely to become fatuitous, or fall into mental decay, as those in the country. First, because they do not usually live so long; and, second, because they have more to occupy their attention. The mind of any man, who has nothing to do, preys upon itself, till it presents the singular anomaly of having devoured itself.

Dr. Franklin presented a case just the reverse of that of Swift. His was a remarkable instance of the influence of reading, writing and conversation, in preserving to the age of eighty-four years a sound and active state of all the mental faculties.

Most old men, of every profession and occupation, when they give up active life, soon fall into mental decay, unless they read and converse much with the younger members of the community.

The insane were anciently called *lunatics*, because it was believed that this disease was caused by the *lunar* changes. The writings of the older physicians abound with superstitious ideas upon this, and kindred subjects. In ancient times, the changes of the moon were all the *almanac* they possessed, and it was not uncommon for whole tribes to worship “the Queen of heaven.”

While I have but little faith in the prevailing opinions that, the moon rules the growth of vines and plants, and influences the *shrinking* of meat, and the *coming* of soap, and many other such like notions, still, as this “silvery orb” rules the tides, and, thus exercises an influence upon our planet, it is natural to suppose, she *has* an influence upon our atmosphere, and, in this way operates upon our bodies. Our health and spirits are greatly dependent upon atmospheric changes, and upon the electrical phenomena of the air. An eminent physician, who long had the charge of an asylum for insane persons, says, “he has arrived at the conviction that an excited and unsettled state of mind prevailed more at the moon’s changes, than at other times.”

Shakspeare seems to have understood this matter, and, what thing connected with human nature did he not understand? He says,

“Sure, ’t is an error of the moon that comes
Nearer unto the earth than she is wont,
And makes men mad.”

Epileptics are more affected by the phases of the moon, than persons laboring under other forms of madness; but of these, the writer has already spoken in a work now before the public.

The third, and last preservative, that of the proper management of the body as to study, food, medicine, sleep, narcotics, exercise and relaxation, will be elsewhere pointed out in these numbers.

Insanity, usually, comes on gradually. It is, therefore, the more difficult to *diagnose*. This, also, is an additional reason why clergymen should have a knowledge of this disease — of the reciprocal agency of the mind upon the body, and of the body upon the mind.

It is a question which the physician is called upon to decide, Is this person insane? And, I scarcely need add, it is often one of the most difficult duties which he has to perform. So, also, the clergyman, if he understands the true condition of his melancholy parishioner, will be able to say, when he needs *physic*, and when he needs gospel instruction and consolation.

Here, again, we find the older Divines, in their knowledge of medicine conjointly with that of theology, possessed an advantage over those of more modern times. Dodridge, in his "Rise and Progress," speaks of a case of religious melancholy and despondency, where the person might soon be set right by medicine, when all arguments and religious instruction would be of no avail.

As the approach of insanity is often gradual and insidious, where the least hereditary tendency is suspected, any change in the habits and natural disposition should be carefully watched. Does the eye shrink from the popular gaze, and catch furtive glances at the visitor,—is the look sly, or fixed, and downward; or the expression vacant, or quick and restless, you may reasonably fear mental alienation. Thus, a practised eye will often detect insanity where the nearest friends have never even suspected its existence.

Alienation towards friends is often an early symptom of insanity. The nearer and dearer the relationship is, the more intense is often the hatred.

The testimony of the two physicians of New York given in the case of Huntington, the forger, lately convicted there, shows of how little value and how totally absurd are the views of physicians on this subject. Still, it corroborates our opinion as above expressed, that most men are insane on some one subject. With this medical testimony this article will be concluded.

Dr. Willard Parker was examined at great length as to the insanity of Huntington. The conclusions he arrived at were as follows:

"He seemed to me to have a mind which operated very differently from the mass of minds; my conclusion was, that he was insane; self-preservation is one of the laws of our nature, and he seemed to have no sort of tendency or care with regard to it whatever; the all-absorbing subject was the mere matter of making paper and carrying on operations in Wall street; I should not regard this affliction as monomania—still, the making of 'paper' seemed to be the all-absorbing subject with him, and if he were out, he would make this paper again. Q.—What do you mean by monomania, when you speak of it? A.—I should define it, that a man's mind operates naturally, rightly (so to speak) on all subjects, excepting one subject, or one or two subjects; in reference to that subject, the moment it is touched, it awakens a new train of thought, action and manifestation, which actions are entirely at war with what is called the action

of a sound mind; the opinion which I formed about his mind was entirely dependent on his statements and my own examination of his condition; the forms of insanity are infinite; the medical profession do not undertake to give a separate name to each peculiar development of insanity—that is admitted to be quite impossible by the most eminent medical men; in treating of some peculiar forms of monomania, those terms are made use of as expressive of this monomaniacal condition, but though some forms are thus defined by name, I suppose there are a great number that have no name."

Dr. Charles R. Gilman testified as follows: "All that I mean to say is, that I believe him to be insane; I pronounce him insane; a man manifests his insanity in a particular way; I suppose Huntington has that mixture of mental and moral insanity which is very often found; I believe he has a diseased brain; I don't believe he would be responsible if he rose up at this moment and drove a knife into you, which God forbid; if he should commit any offence whatever, I believe he should not be responsible; he would know what he was doing if he did what I said; that, however, would not affect the question of his insanity. The fact of his committing murder and knowing that he would be hanged for it, would not affect the question of his insanity; neither would his commission of forgery or stealing. He might know that all this was wrong; delusion or hallucination has nothing to do with it; I believe that he has moral and mental insanity, with a little of intellectual insanity; intellectual insanity is that he was reckless in the use of money, in the way he committed the forgeries and his making no attempt to escape; in reference to this matter of forgery I have my doubts as to whether he is insane; the question is, if he were placed in circumstances where he would commit violence, would he not have done so; I think he has general insanity; it is doubtful whether it is right to call it monomania; I differ with Dr. Parker in regard to this man's insanity being monomania or a general mania; I use the words "unsound," and "madness," and "unsoundness" as being "identical;" I asked him if he had a boy and blurted out, "What a horrible inheritance he had grown up to;" he was perfectly cold, and said "it would all blow over;" though he knew it was forgery he did not appreciate it; I think the light manner in which he spoke of his wife and child showed his insanity; I think this taken with other things is a

proof of his insanity; I know of one case in which the insane tendency was to commit forgery; there was a case of insanity; I would not pronounce Monroe Edwards insane; I read the case of Fontleroy, who was hung for forgery in England; I suppose that Huntington committed forgery, although he knew it was wrong, but his power of resistance was diminished by the mental effects dependent on his physical organization; it is my opinion that Huntington had an irresistible tendency to commit crime; my opinion is that if a man is insane it would be unsafe to calculate on what he might or might not do; the definition made by twelve judges in England of insanity is all wrong in my opinion; I regard it as nonsense.

[Communicated for The Medical World.]

SCIENTIFIC TESTIMONY.

The trial of William Palmer, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, for the murder of John P. Cook, which took place at London last May, excited no little interest in England and this country. Thirty-seven medical men testified in the case, six or seven of them being among the most distinguished members of the profession in Great Britain. The defence attempted to show that Cook died from natural causes, while the prosecution endeavored to prove that death was consequent upon poisoning by strychnine; and after making it evident that Palmer had a strong interest in procuring Cook's death, the case turned upon the testimony of medical men and experts, who were called upon to interpret the symptoms exhibited by the deceased. The counsel for the crown consisted of the Attorney General and four eminent associates; the prisoner's advocates were four of the most distinguished members of the London bar. Lord Campbell, Chief Justice of England, presided.

The murder was committed at Rugeley, in Staffordshire, but to ensure an impartial verdict the trial was ordered, by special act of parliament, to be held at London.

Dr. Harland, a local practitioner, testified that, six days after death, the rigor mortis existed to an unusual degree; the viscera were all healthy; the heart contracted, the blood uncoagulated, and the spinal chord normal. The contents of the stomach were taken away for examination, and it was proved that Palmer, who was present at the autopsy, endeavored to cause the gastric fluid to be spilled; and subsequently offered the driver of the cab which

carried away the jar containing the stomach ten pounds if he would overturn the conveyance.

The prosecution maintained that death did not occur from disease, and endeavored to educe the administration of strychnia from the phenomena of the case.

Thomas Curling, Surgeon to the London Hospital, testified that neither idiopathic nor traumatic tetanus ever arose so suddenly as the symptoms originated in Cook's case: that trismus was the first manifestation of tetanus, and the spasm was not intermittent, as it was shown to have been from the statement of those who were with Cook. Dr. Curling had inserted in his book the oft-mentioned case of the negro who died from tetanus, at Edinburgh, in fifteen minutes after receiving a wound from broken china, but subsequent investigation had caused him to reject it as unworthy of credit.

Dr. Todd, of King's College Hospital, confirmed the above testimony.

Sir Benjamin Brodie said he had never known the symptoms of tetanus last for a few minutes, then subside, and return in twenty-four hours. He added, "Perhaps I had better say at once that I never saw the symptoms I have heard described here arise from disease."

Dr. Alfred Taylor, who had experimented extensively with strychnine on animals, testified that, in one case, where two grains had been given, on analysis, he detected the poison by the color test: in another case, where one grain was administered, the bitter taste exhibited it; and in a third case, one and one-half grain could not be detected. Dr. T. explained its non-appearance by absorption and chemical, and, perhaps, vital change. He declared distinctly that a minimum poisonous dose could be discovered by chemical analysis. Cook's stomach showed trace of no poison except tartar emetic. In these opinions Dr. G. O. Rees, lecturer on Materia Medica at Guy's Hospital, coincided, and Prof. Brande, of the Royal Institute, confirmed the accuracy of the tests for antimony.

Professor Christison, of Edinburgh, testified that strychnia acted by absorption into the blood, and, through that, upon the nervous system. He had experimented with the poison upon animals. The first symptom is a slight tremor and unwillingness to move; frequently the animal jerks his head back; death usually occurs in half an hour. Had opened the bodies of animals thus killed, without ever being able to trace any effect of the poison upon the

stomach, intestines, spinal chord, or brain. Dr. Christison said, that if the dose of strychnia were no more than just sufficient to cause death, he should not expect to find any trace of it upon examination.

Dr. Jackson, who had seen forty cases of idiopathic tetanus in India, testified that the incipient symptom was trismus. Cook did not exhibit this symptom.

On the seventh day of the trial Serjeant Shee opened the defence.

He laid much stress on the fact that chemical analysis had disclosed no strychnia, and called witnesses to prove, from science, that if it had been given in appreciable quantities it was detectable.

In refutation of Taylor and Christison's evidence, Mr. Nunndey, professor of surgery in the Leeds Medical School, testified that poisons are absorbed from the stomach without undergoing any process of digestion, and may be detected as such in the blood, unchanged. Putrefaction will not modify the poison; he had detected it at the end of forty days.

When the convulsive attack seized Cook he asked to be rubbed; all animals which have been poisoned by strychnia evince an extraordinary susceptibility to touch, which invariably increases the disturbance.

Dr. Herapath, professor of chemistry at Bristol, had experimented with strychnia; he was confident it ought and would be found if given in poisonous doses, if the body had not crumbled to dust. Mr. Rogers, professor of chemistry at St. George's Medical School, substantiated the above statement.

Dr. Letheby, professor of chemistry in the London Medical School and health officer to the city, had given especial attention to the subject of poisons. In his opinion, the symptoms described in Cook's case do not correspond with poisoning by strychnia. The interval of quiet after the alleged administration was too long. The 20,000th part of a grain of strychnia could be discovered by tests. He had given an animal half a grain and recovered nearly all the poison.

The disease from which Cook died was, in Dr. L.'s opinion, irreconcilable with the supposition of strychnia poisoning.

Dr. Wrightson, chemist at Birmingham, and former pupil of Liebig at Giessen, testified that he had experimented with strychnine, and had detected it in the animal tissues after decomposition had commenced. He did not believe the drug underwent any chemical changes in the body. In the urine of a dog, to which he

had given one grain, strychnia was detected; should confidently expect to find the poison, if sought for within five or six days.

Professor Partridge, of King's College, had heard the evidence as to Cook's symptoms and the post mortem examination. He could not form any judgment as to the cause of his death.

Dr. W. MacDonald believed the smallest dose of strychnia sufficient to kill could be found in the stomach. The 50,000th of a grain was discoverable. He believed Cook died from epileptic convulsion complicated with tetanus.

On the twelfth day of the trial the Attorney General closed the argument by examining the evidence for the defence. He thought the positive testimony of the scientific men called for the prosecution was not rebutted by the prisoner's witnesses. The character of the government witnesses doubtless carried much weight, and overbalanced the conflicting statements of the other side. This, in conjunction with the evidence of facts, non-medical, in the case, procured a verdict of guilty, and the prisoner was subsequently hanged. The belief was prevalent in London that Cook was preliminarily drugged with antimony, which exerted some occult influence upon the system, so as to mask the subsequent presence of the poison; and that Palmer died with the undisclosed knowledge of a hitherto unknown property of the drugs which he administered. Such a hypothesis, however, needs proof.

Attleboro', Mass.

S.

CASE OF A PENCIL IN THE BLADDER OF A YOUNG LADY, REMOVED PER URETHRAM.

BY L. C. DOLLEY, M. D.

On the evening of Saturday the 19th of April, 1856, I received a message to go eight miles into the country to see a young lady, the subject of this sketch, who had, I was told, a week previously, passed a drawing pencil into her bladder. Upon arriving, I was introduced to Miss C——, aged eighteen years, the eldest daughter of a respectable and wealthy farmer, and possessing, apparently, a good constitution and an ordinary amount of intelligence. The account I received was, that she was expecting to "commit matrimony" in a few weeks; and that on the Monday previous she had been left with the

oversight of the household matters, circumstances having made it necessary for the parents to be absent from home for five or six days. Soon after the departure of her parents, she was visited by one of her young lady friends, recently married, who advised her to prepare herself for the new relations she expected soon to assume. The advice of her foolish friend was that she should destroy the hymen. It was not long before she acted upon the advice, and selected for her instrument, what was probably most accessible, a common drawing pencil. Not overcautious, and forgetting "there's many a slip, etc.," she soon found that the pencil was beyond her reach. Her efforts to recover the fugitive pencil all proving fruitless, she abandoned it until the return of her parents, on Saturday, the evening of which day I was called to see her.

Upon my arrival I found the patient in a large chair, suffering no great amount of pain, excepting when voiding her urine, and for some minutes after. The pain at such times was intense, and the calls to urinate were frequent. Considerable tenderness was found over the pubes, more especially on the right side. But slight, if any, febrile symptoms were present. Thinking it possible that she might have been mistaken in her opinion of the locality of the pencil, and hoping it might be found in the vagina above the hymen, I first made an examination *per vaginam*. The hymen was extinct and no traces of the pencil were discovered. A female catheter was passed into the bladder, which came in contact with a solid substance high in its cavity. The blades of dressing forceps were then introduced, and when forcibly brought in contact with the pencil could be heard by those standing by. The pencil was rudely grasped by the forceps, but so firmly were its extremities imbedded in the coats of the contracted bladder that it could not be removed, only so far as the bladder would move with it.

By tracing its position with the forceps, it was found to lie nearly horizontally across the bladder, its right extremity a little higher than the left. After several ineffectual attempts to remove it, fearing that I might excite inflammation of the bladder or urethra by protracted and forcible efforts, the case was abandoned until morning, and a wet compress applied over the pubic region.

In the morning, after obtaining a syringe, the bladder was injected and distended to its full capacity with a thick mucilage of slippery

elm bark. This was allowed to pass off, after which the bladder was again partly filled with the mucilage. The forceps were again introduced, and the pencil was found to be more movable than on the previous evening; but owing to its length the instrument could not be applied within an inch or more of its extremities. Its left extremity was gradually worked down with the forceps until it could be felt through the walls of the vagina. By means of the forceps and the index-finger in the vagina, this end was brought within the urethra and extracted, occasioning a considerable amount of pain, but no hemorrhage.

The trophy was found to be a portion, something more than half, of a common drawing pencil, which measured just four inches in length, and pointed at the end which pressed against the right side of the bladder. The glue uniting the two portions of the wood had become softened, and the pencil separated into two portions as it was removed.

The patient was directed to drink a decoction of *Althæa Officinalis*, and to make use of warm hip-baths and fomentations as long as soreness and painful urination was felt. All unpleasant symptoms subsided in two or three days. The young lady was informed that she might consider herself *prepared for married life*, and dismissed with a confident belief that similar manipulations will be avoided in the future.

Rochester, Jan. 30th, 1857.

SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

This Society held its "Monthly Meeting for Medical Conversation," Jan. 31st, in Temple Place. On a very similar evening, two months since, very *stormy*, there were just a *baker's dozen* present; but now, there were some seventy-five or an hundred. The Committee of arrangements had provided some *specimens*, which were not presented at the former meeting, not exactly, *medical subjects*, nor *pathological*; but adapted to the *stomachs* of the profession; and when these were *discussed*, it was evident that there were no *Homœopaths* present; or, if there were, they did not take *infinitesimal* doses.

The Secretary read the "Records" of the last meeting. *Dr. Buck* said he had found much benefit in *hæmatemesis* from *creosote*, two drops to an ounce of water, given in teaspoonful doses every hour or *pro ne neta*.

It was palatable as well as serviceable. The old doctor's remarks are always characterized by good common sense.

Dr. Bowditch spoke of Belladonna as a prophylactic for scarlet fever. He had no "faith" in it; but still would advise its use by regular physicians, if parents or nurses wished it, because, if the question were asked, Have you ever tried it? and we were compelled to say no, they might justly ask, How can you tell, if you have never tried it?

Dr. Buck said "he gave Belladonna, not as a preventive, but in the treatment of scarlet fever. He did not know as it did any good."

Dr. Cornell asked Dr. Buck if he was certain that any medicine did good, in this disease.

Dr. Buck said "he was not." He doubted if it did. He thought inunction with olive oil beneficial. Upon this, and good nursing, he placed his chief dependence. Dr. B. did not think scarlet fever was contagious. Dr. Buckingham thought the same. Dr. Gould thought it was contagious in the proportion of about one in three of all who were exposed to it. Dr. Putnam had no doubt of its contagiousness. Dr. Alley had found at the "Orphan Asylum" that about one-third of the children there had this disease in 1848, and about the same proportion the present winter. But, as it was unknown how many had had the disease, before coming into the institution, it was no criterion as to what proportion of them took the disease.

Dr. Bowditch had had one case, in an institution where there were seventy-five children. He gave Belladonna, and none of the others had it. Still he did not attribute any benefit to the Belladonna. Some thought its administration should not be had unless we had faith in it, as it was encouraging imposture. In fine, so far as could be learned, and so far as expression was given, there seemed to be about as many opinions of *Scarlet Fever* and *Belladonna*, as there were doctors present.

Dr. Gay spoke of a case of vomiting blood as to appearance, which upon examination proved to be bile; and inquired if the members of the Society had examined similar appearances of vomiting blood. Dr. Ellis thought he had. Dr. Gould related a case of a patient who had been at first treated by a *Homœopathist*, and who cured him in three days. Then he was treated by a friend, not a physician, or at least not a member of the society. And last he came under his (Gould's) care. He treated him for inflammation of the liver, and expected

that pus had formed, and passed down the psoas muscle, &c. He died, and a post mortem showed no inflammation of the liver, but acute enteritis. Two or three beans were found in the intestines, and his landlady said he had had no beans for three weeks. Whether the beans had any share in causing the disease was problematical.

Dr. John Ware was asked what he considered the best treatment for the sequence of scarlet fever, in the form of dropsy. He said he thought the kidneys were usually in fault, in these cases, and he had been in the habit of applying leeches, at first, and then prescribing some of the various preparations of potash, with other diuretics.

Dr. Cornell related a case of erysipelas. Patient was of an erysipelatos diathesis; had been attacked, and treated by him, with the same disease, two or three years in succession. This time, it was more severe than in any former instance. It commenced upon the nose, and extended, upon one side of the head, to the ear, which was very much swollen. Severe pain was very constant over the eye. On the seventh day, the erysipelas subsided, and on the evening of that day the patient was attacked by pleurisy. He had been subject to pleurisy in years past. A mustard plaster was applied to the side, but afforded no relief. A blister was then employed. The most peculiar feature in the case was, when the pleuritic attack commenced, the pulse fell away, and the patient appeared to be sinking. Brandy and whisky, with ammonia, were freely administered, but it was two days before the patient rallied. In the meantime he had taken brandy and whisky enough to have produced intoxication in half a dozen well men. He finally recovered. Would any other treatment have saved him?

Dr. D. Humphreys Storer said he was requested by Dr. Wistar, Treasurer of the "American Medical Association," to solicit subscriptions of the members of the society for the "Transactions," or volumes of the "Association." Dr. Wistar had informed him that only about a dozen of these yearly volumes were taken in Massachusetts, and ninety in Connecticut. This would seem as though Massachusetts had not so much interest in this gigantic "Association," comprising thirty-one States, (and whether it includes "Kansas" and the Territories, I do not know,) as Connecticut. Perhaps there is a cause for this. Massachusetts men, who have done as much for this great "Association" as others, may not have been treated as they have merited by some of

the members. At any rate, this is not the first time Connecticut has *outdone* Massachusetts. She has always been in advance of "the old Bay State" in making *narrow, crooked turnpikes, wooden nutmegs, wooden cucumber-seeds, wooden clocks, and Barnums.*

Dr. Bowditch moved that the physicians who were members of the Legislature, from the county, be invited to attend the meetings of the society. The secretary said they had already been invited by himself and the speaker of the House. *Dr. Ware* thought it would still be proper to invite them, notwithstanding the *courtesy* of the Secretary and Speaker. *Dr. Bowditch's* motion was adopted. But it was with the understanding that the invitation should be limited to the members of the Society only.

The society then adjourned to the table prepared by the committee of arrangements, and did ample justice to the *fine specimens* there exhibited. Indeed, the utmost good humor seemed to prevail; and but one thing more, it is apprehended, is necessary to call together a still greater number next month, and that is, to invite the wives and mothers and daughters of the doctors to meet with them in the room under the special care of the committee of arrangements, of which I believe *Dr. Alley* is chairman. This seems to be essential to give a zest to this latter meeting of the evening; and this is all that is wanting, unless, perchance, some "fellow" (who is not a member of the Temperance Society), should vainly imagine that, a little wine, "that maketh glad the heart of man," should also be added.

Dr. Bowditch made some very *catholic* remarks, respecting the use which the regular profession should make of the discoveries of *outsiders*. They were like an *oasis* in a desert, so seldom are such ideas ever advanced by members of this society. He thought the use of cold water was much more frequent now, and in new forms, than it was before *Preisnitz* employed it. He would not reject any remedy, because it was first used by "irregular practitioners," whether they were *Homœopaths* or *Hydropaths*. He seemed disposed, like the "Medical World" to

"Seize upon truth, wherever found,
On Christian or on Heathen ground."

MEDICUS.

It comes out that Sidney Smith, the last of the refined English wits, studied medicine for the purpose of assisting the poor.

PROGRESS OF THE MEDICAL WORLD.

It is mortifying to witness the masterly inactivity of the medical mind of this country, at this particular juncture, in regard to the matter of writing professional works. We are called the most sprightly of literary men in making notes to European productions, and our industry is in the highest degree commendable in furnishing papers for the journals; but it is said of us that we certainly do not prepare half as many standard treatises for the library,—works that bespeak the strength of medical science in the land, as might have existence. Materials are at hand, and no doubt hundreds are fully expecting leisure enough by-and-by for accomplishing the construction of some kind of bibliographical monument, by which they may be favorably remembered by posterity. But the incessant activity of the medical practitioners of the United States, stands very much in the way of that calm and deliberate devotion to a subject, which would be necessary to furnish an acceptable evidence of their acknowledged qualifications, for posterity. To make a book that could pass the terrible ordeal to which all originals on disease are subjected, is something of an undertaking, however. The apology for doing so little, because there is nothing new, cannot always be received good-naturedly by transatlantic gentlemen. A national medical literature, in the tangible form of substantial volumes, will be demanded.

We respectfully urge it upon those who have it in their power to achieve renown in that inviting direction, to economize time, and save their thoughts, and, above all, their facts, in legible manuscript. True it is, that a bright array of American medical authors are known abroad, wherever science is appreciated or talent honored; but there should be more wealth drawn from the same exhaustless medical fountain in America. But we shall not burthen the reader with further observations on this topic at present, but show, by catalogue, how poverty stricken the medical press is in the beginning of February, 1857. Reprints constitute nearly the whole,—and in this list there are but two home-made books.

Elements of Anatomy and Pyhsiology, by Edward Hitchcock, LL. D., and Edward Hitchcock, Jr., M. D., published by Ivison & Phinney.

First Book of Science, embracing Chemis ry,

Philosophy, Geology, &c., by J. A. Porter, published by Messrs. Barnes & Co.

A New System of Phrenology, by John S. Hittell, published by Blanchard.

Treatment of Fevers, with special reference to ventilation, by J. H. Barker, M. D.

The Mechanism of the Gubernaculum Testis, by John Cleland, M. D.

Illustrations of the Pathology of Cancer, by J. C. Lawrence.

Principles of Psychology, by Geo. Ramsay.

The Anatomy and Physiology of Man, by R. B. Todd and W. Boman.

Animal Physics, or the body and its functions explained, by Dr. Lardner.

In other departments of science and general literature, both here and in Europe, there is intense activity at the present moment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY. — A meeting of the Counsellors was held in Temple Place last week. After the appointment of the usual committees, it was voted that the Recording Secretary be authorized to issue certificates to the delegates to the meeting of the National Medical Society to be held at Nashville, Tenn., in May. A resolution was passed appointing a committee of five, consisting of Dr. John Ware, Dr. Horatio Adams, Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, Dr. Edward Jarvis, and Dr. John B. Alley, to consider the expediency of the fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society taking measures for the institution of a Medical Relief Society among them.

A valuable geological map of the State of Tennessee, prepared with reference to developing its mineral and agricultural resources, by James M. Safford, A. M., was distributed gratuitously in the January number of that excellent, well-conducted periodical, *The Southern Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences*, published at Knoxville.

The American Medical Gazette for February is keenly severe in its comments upon the testimony of Drs. Parker and Gilman, of New York, in relation to the moral sanity of Huntington, the forger.

The Nashville Medical School, Tennessee, must be taking a high position among the most successful in this country, if numbers in attendance is to be received as an evidence of reputation and increasing prosperity. Four hundred and fifteen constitute the present class,

of whom one hundred and fifty are candidates for a doctorate.

Dr. Reese says that Dr. Hunter, the *Inhalationist*, is back again. He handles his system without gloves.

Dr. G. C. E. Webber, of New York, has been appointed to the Chair of Surgery at the Medical College of Cleveland, Ohio.

A legislative committee have reported in favor of granting, for two successive years, ten thousand dollars for the contemplated Consumption Hospital, to be located in New York.

If the new City Hospital, earnestly demanded in Boston, for the special temporary relief of the respectable poor, is not commenced pretty soon, the petitioners will be out of patience, and the patients themselves recover without medical assistance, which would be entirely unscientific as well as unsatisfactory to some people.

There seems to be immense activity displayed by medical aspirants at Albany, N. Y.,—dancing attendance on the Legislature,—each one trying and hoping to be nominated Health Officer of the Quarantine Station, at Staten Island, N. Y., which is presumed to yield the richest income of any official bureau in the Empire State.

An address by Samuel Pride, M. D., of Marysville, Tenn., before the Medical Society of East Tennessee, does him great credit.

A very fatal typhoid epidemic has been prevailing at Russellville, Jefferson county, Tenn. Medical assistance went from Knoxville and Rogersville, on account of the demand for medical attentions.

Harper's Magazine has a cutting hit at the advocates of moral insanity, lately promulgated in New York. It says, "The cook who dropped arsenic in the soup, just as she dished it up, is unfortunately alienated in that direction; and O'Tooly McBlunderbuss, who broke your head with a club in a retired walk at Hoboken, is subject to the same melancholy delusion. The Mannings and Palmers, and Redpath and Strahan, Paul & Co., and Robinson, and, in short, all the unfortunate gentlemen who have been convicted as criminals from the beginning, if they have only been criminal enough, are sad monomaniacs." Do those eminent medical witnesses in the case of the notorious forger, Huntington, still remain of the opinion they advanced in Court, in regard to the rascal's deranged state of mind?

Small-pox was raging among the Indians at Pembina, Minnesota, on the 15th of December, and about 60 had already died.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 11, 1857.

PROGRESS OF CRIME.—We first copy a police report from the *New-York Times* :

"Some statements, charging Mr. Brigham S. Barton, a well-known Philadelphia merchant, with having lately committed a heinous offence in this City, have already been published, and created no little interest here where Mr. Barton is widely known. Mr. Barton, on seeing the published accusations against him, voluntarily at once repaired to this City and delivered himself over to the Chief of Police, to answer any complaint that might be made against him.

The whole matter was brought officially before one of the Police Magistrates, when Miss Sally Stafford, of Wallingford, Vt., appeared before Justice Osborne, at the Lower Police Court, and made an affidavit, wherein she charges Mr. Barton with having, some weeks since at one of the hotels in this city, violated her person by 'force and violence and again her will.'

It appears from the statements made in the affidavit that Miss Stafford met with Mr. Barton in Philadelphia. Just previous to her starting for this city, whither she was coming on her way home, Mr. Barton stated he too was coming to New York on business, and offered his escort to this place. The offer was accepted. On their arrival in this city, Mr. Barton invited Miss Stafford to accompany him to a hotel and take dinner. She went with him; and on arriving at the hotel designated, she, at the suggestion of Mr. Barton, entered a private room 'to arrange her dress.' While in this private room, Mr. B. offered her a glass of wine, which she drank, and soon thereafter became unconscious. When she recovered from her unconsciousness she became aware that her person had been violated, and hence the present proceedings.

Upon the strength of these allegations a warrant for the arrest of the accused was placed in the hands of officer Bowyer, who served it, and yesterday morning Mr. Barton appeared before the magistrate for examination. He stated the charge to be entirely false, and expressed himself sanguine of being able to establish his innocence.

Miss Stafford, the complainant, not being present, she being gone to Philadelphia, the examination was necessarily postponed until her return.

Bail for Mr. Barton's appearance was offered, but the magistrate said he could not legally take bail in the case. But inasmuch as the accused party had voluntarily come from another State to answer the accusation against him, and had remained in this city for several days awaiting the commencement of legal proceedings, he did not deem it at all necessary that he should now be committed to prison simply because the complainant happened to be absent. He would therefore permit him to depart on his parole, to be present when the examination commenced.

Mr. Barton was accordingly permitted to return to his hotel."

No one presumes to doubt that all the facts elicited in this case before a magistrate have been cor-

rectly stated. But how many medical men, whose opinion should weigh well in every intelligent community, believe this narrative embraces the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

Females have the whole power of the criminal law at their beck and call, if they choose to exercise their prerogative, by accusing a man of the high crime of a violation of their person. No corroborating evidence is required. They declare in the witness-box that they have suffered the great wrong which they describe, and a halter, a State prison, or, in the mildest aspect that it can be viewed by a tribunal of justice, a gentleman who has maintained a good character in society from childhood, is utterly ruined by the individual testimony of one female,—who is the accuser, and the party in interest, whose object is to save her own reputation by the sacrifice of another's as fair as her own, before she preferred the charge.

Notwithstanding the efforts of medical experts in the collection and presentation of extraordinary relations, to show that the woman whose evidence swept Dr. Beal, a Philadelphia dentist, from the bosom of his happy family to a cell in the penitentiary, might have had a condition of the brain, induced by the inhalation of chloroform, that led her to imagine she had been violated, the executive listened to it reluctantly and with evident doubts. The people are always humanely disposed towards the oppressed, and the sympathies of the public are so strongly expressed at the declaration of an unusually wicked act, like the one under consideration, that the poor afflicted criminal, innocent though he may be as an angel, is executed by the general voice; while the accuser is deemed to be an angel, without waiting to ascertain whether she possesses a single claim to respect or protection.

Medical jurisprudence has something more to do before it meets all the intricacies of a depraved nature in one direction, and makes the path of justice easier for travel, in this special department of criminal law. Solomon long ago decided that it was impossible to discover the way of a man with a maid, but in this advanced age of refined civilization, a woman with a depraved heart who may have very urgent motives for concealing the real author of her disgrace, is permitted to save herself completely, by bringing down moral worth to a low level of apparent demoralization.

Let us have the views of an intelligent, scientific profession on this point. Do you believe the lady, in this instance, became pregnant in the manner she avers?

A WORD WITH CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters, communications, and specific orders in relation to sending the *Medical World*, are not unfrequently received from gentlemen who forget to name the State in which they reside, and this will explain any apparent neglect on the part of the publishers.

Frequently the post-office stamp is plain enough to

be a tolerable guide; but when it happens to be illegible, then all hope is lost. There are so many Rochesters, Springfields, Washingtons, Randolphs, Bridgewater, Brookfields, Albanys, Troys, Watervilles, Portlands, Stillwaters, &c., beyond a patient enumeration, that, unless those doing business with us are particular to write their address plainly, with the town and State where they reside, both parties will suffer delays and inconvenience. We therefore beg them to bear this request in mind.

HOMŒOPATHIC DIRECTORY.—Homœopathic practitioners and those interested in that school of medicine are much indebted to Henry M. Smith, Esq., of New York, for a correct directory of the fraternity throughout the Union, South America and the West India Islands.

It must have been a prodigious labor to gather the names and localities of those actively engaged in practice, and other statistical information in regard to the present homœopathic organizations now in being in this country. Even the names and residence of all the Pharmacies are carefully noted, and then, to give completeness to the enterprise, the author presents a catalogue of the most approved works on the subject, and the price of each volume,—concluding with the names of the journals devoted exclusively to the dissemination of the doctrines, the facts and intelligence grouped under the term homœopathy.

The undertaking is far superior to any other medical directory in this country. We have no approach to it in point of copiousness and accuracy. It is indeed quite difficult to ascertain from any register extant, the number of physicians in any one State. Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut have the best catalogues, but those are far from being accurate.

If there could be an annual list of the active practitioners of physic and surgery in all the States and territories, it would be a much sought for publication, because it would present not only the strength of the profession, but enable us to determine from one period to another the ratio of increase, which is now entirely problematical.

It is not a little mortifying to witness the progress of the homœopathists in systematizing their forces, and ascertaining with certainty, at the commencement of each advancing year, the exact number of accessions to their family throughout the vast regions of the United States, from the Atlantic to the shores of the Pacific.

From this same publication it appears that there is a Medical Homœopathic College in Philadelphia, with a faculty of eight professors; another at Cleveland, Ohio, with ten professors. Eight homœopathic dispensaries; three hospitals and twenty-four homœopathic medical societies, independent of the American Institute of Homœopathy, or National Association.

When we commenced an examination of this beau-

tifully printed homœopathic directory, the idea of constructing a paragraph beyond announcing the publication, as all others are noticed, to keep readers apprised of the progress of things pertaining to their special province, was not contemplated. But being often reminded by our well-posted friends on whom we often rely for information, that homœopathy is on its last legs, we are the more astonished that it can make this formidable show of youthful vigor in the last paroxysms of death.

If in ten years homœopathy has enlarged its borders from here and there a solitary practitioner, to a perfect national organization, with several thousand practitioners, what may not be anticipated in regard to their multiplication in ten years more?

These are grave considerations, when it is remembered that people of all conditions of life, including a very strong representation of the most cultivated, wealthy and excellent of the earth, are giving the whole weight of their influence and example, to extend the triumphs of homœopathy.

JOHN AYRTON PARIS, M. D., *late President of the London College of Physicians.* Although a reference has already been made to the late Dr. Paris, in the necrological department, the following sketch is sufficiently interesting to warrant its insertion, because it is always gratifying to know the claims of great and good men to the admiration of the world.

It is with very sincere regret that we announce the death of this excellent and distinguished man, which occurred yesterday morning at 8½ o'clock, at his residence in Dover street. Few men have run so long and at the same time so honorable a career. For half a century precisely, Dr. Paris had practised as a physician, and had risen to the very highest honors which it was in the power of his professional brethren to bestow. He was born at Cambridge on Aug. 7, in the year 1785, and at twenty-two years of age he was elected physician to the Westminster Hospital—a most distinguished honor for so young a man; and he continued in the active exercise of his professional duties until within a fortnight of his death. For fifty years then—a considerable period even in the history of a nation—was the gentleman, to whose memory we would fain offer a slight tribute of respect, actually engaged in the alleviation of suffering, and in the relief of afflicted humanity.

To Dr. Paris, as is well known in the profession and to all persons more intimately acquainted with his career, the office of physician was no hireling's work, to be hurried through for the purpose of accumulating a fortune or earning distinction. It was the business and glory of his life. When but fourteen years of age, he commenced his studies for the arduous profession on which he was about to enter, and followed them up with a zeal incredible in so young a person; when he had attained the ripe age of three-score years and ten, the old man, true to the resolution of the boy, voluntarily took upon himself the arduous duties of President of the Medical Council of the Board of Health, and with his own hand wrote the introductory report on the cholera of 1854.

His personal history may be dismissed in a few brief sentences. Born at Cambridge, as we have said, in 1785, he became a member of Caius College, in the University, and graduated when very young in medicine. Among his contemporaries he was distinguished for the extent and elegance of his classical attainments. The Classical Tripos was not then in existence, and so, independently of the exigencies of his medical degree, he had not at the University any opportunity for displaying that fine and intimate knowledge of the writers of antiquity, for which he was afterwards so distinguished both in private life and as President of the College of Physicians. From Cambridge he went to Edinburgh, then remarkable as a school of medicine, and was the friend and intimate companion of the many celebrated men who, in the first years of the century, had congregated in the Scottish capital. On his return to London, at the age of twenty-two, he was elected, as we before said, physician of the Westminster Hospital, but soon after vacated the appointment, as it was his wish to establish himself in the town of Penzance, in Cornwall.

During his residence at Penzance, Dr. Paris distinguished himself as the founder of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall; this, we believe, was the first Geological Society in England. When at Penzance, too, he gave to the miners the great boon of the "tamping-bar," the instrument by which they are enabled to pursue their business amid inflammable gases without the fear of striking fire from the rock. By this simple but admirable invention Paris, no doubt, saved more lives than many heroes have destroyed. In the year 1810 he returned to London, and here, for forty-five or forty-six years, he was actively occupied as a practising physician. He was elected President of the College of Physicians in the year 1844, and this office he held until the hour of his death.

Dr. Paris was not only known as a physician of the highest eminence—he was as remarkable for his literary ability. The *Life of Sir Humphrey Davy* will ever remain one of the classical biographies of the English Language. In connection with Mr. Fonblanque he also wrote the *Medical Jurisprudence*, which has remained a text-book with lawyers until our own day. His works of a more professional character were his treatise *On Diet*, which first brought him into notice, and which was published at a very early age; his *Pharmacologia*, which has run through more editions than most books; and his work on medical chemistry. Besides these and many other acknowledged publications, his *Philosophy in Sport* has attained an enormous popularity, and with his life, the motive for an *incognito*, which was never really maintained, has altogether terminated. In so brief a notice as the one to which we are necessarily limited by considerations of space, we can say but little more.

The last ten days of Dr. Paris' life were spent in the midst of excruciating sufferings, which were borne with the most remarkable fortitude. His chief concern appeared to be to console and comfort those around him, who could ill disguise their grief at the impending and irreparable loss. His intellect remained to the last as clear as at any time of his life, and while power of speech remained nobody who listened to him could believe that the end was so near at hand. The public and the medical profession have suffered a great loss in the death of John Ayrton Paris, one of the most disinterested, honorable, and able men who have ever practised the profession of medicine.

COURT-MARTIALING A SURGEON.—It appears from the communication of a correspondent of the *Transcript*, that the surgeons in the service of the general Government are liable to vexations, and as little gratitude is manifested for their past labors, however meritorious, as their brethren have meted to them out of the army. In one case they have to answer before a court-martial, and in the other, they are often compelled to pay heavy damages for exerting their best skill in saving the bones or lives of scoundrels, who prosecute them for mal-practice, without cause, as an easy method of filling their empty purses.

The circumstances of the court-martial referred to in the accompanying extract are presumed to be true, although we have not noticed the relation in any other publication besides that from whence it was taken.

As a body of professional men, the surgeons of the army and navy of the United States are eminently qualified for the responsibilities of their position. The standard of qualification is high, and no second rate person has the least opportunity of sliding into a commission, as some modern professors slide into chairs, through the motive agency of family influence. To put a faithful public servant, whose character and kindness are beyond a question, in such a position, was an indignity.

This is the story :—

One of our military farces called a court-martial has lately made a talk here, (New York) because of the glaring inconsistency and injustice of the proceeding. A dozen officers were kept for a fortnight in attendance on the pay of a dollar a day, and at an expense of five, to try Surgeon Holden for alleged neglect of duty. For more than twelve years this faithful and intelligent gentleman has served his country on the army medical staff, and during nearly the whole period has been quartered on the frontier; he did yeoman work in the Mexican war, and has passed the flower of his days away from civilized society, camped out in Oregon, doubled the stormy Cape, traversed Texas, and now, just as he comes home for a brief respite, he finds himself arrested for what was proved on the trial, *obedience to orders*—having, after seeing the men placed in his charge as invalids, at New Orleans, embarked in good health here to cross a ferriage, occupying ten minutes, to their quarters, he left them, by permission of his commanding officer, to report their arrival; and in the meanwhile some of the fellows got drunk, and the surgeon was arrested and tried, at all this expense of time and money, to say nothing of having his name paraded in the journals. Verily, republics are as ungrateful, and "fantastic tricks" are as often played by those dressed in "a little brief authority," now, as in the days of Athenian glory and of Shakspeare's theatre.

MEDICAL CHARITABLE FUND.—From a slight expression of activity a few weeks ago, some hope was entertained that a movement was making for organizing a medical charitable fund, such as has been successfully commenced in New York, for providing for the unfortunate members of the profession and their families. A committee, said report, was raised to pro-

pose a plan of action. Probably the affair has died a natural death. It is excessively difficult to make a very rich man understand that a little of his abundance might be spared, without shortening either his rations or influence, for those who have nothing at all. It is a reproach to Boston that a benevolent organization for contributing systematically for the objects always contemplated in these repeated calls, has not yet been formed. The next best measure is for each one, rich or poor, to keep his life insured. Some become disconcerted, in making annual payments, on looking back through the haze of several past years, on finding themselves still alive. However, keep on paying. They have destiny on their side. The last day will positively be ushered in, and the policy will of course contribute to the comfort of some one who had a right to look for protection in that direction. This charitable medical fund affair goes on too slowly and grudgingly, ever to succeed satisfactorily in Boston.

OLD PRACTICE AND NEW.—Conversation abounds in references to new systems of practice, as though an old one had been discarded. Perhaps some correspondent may explain what is to be understood by the terms. At the West, there are places where they speak flippantly of the new practice, expressing a preference for a certain kind of medication that possesses prominent advantages over something of the olden time. To one who resides at the East, this is cabalistic. A variety of methods are pursued here as well as there, for accomplishing the same object, viz: healing of the sick. As Spiritualists, animal magnetizers, seventh sons, natural bonesetters, Indian doctors, Thomsonians, Cochranites, hydropathists, kneaders, nutrivists, mercurial extractors, and some other representative schools not recollected, are in the full tide of success in many parts of New England, the opening was never more decidedly favorable than at the present moment for the introduction of something quite new! Whatever is novel and sufficiently improbable, in medicine, is promptly sustained. Who can doubt it, when it is susceptible of proof that each and all medical adventurers thrive vigorously?

OVER-DOSING.—An essential change in the manner of dosing patients has been brought about by general consent. Formerly, many were supposed to be over-drugged — now they get next to nothing at all. The medium may be the philosophical course. The expectant school are always hoping something will turn up, by not turning any thing down; while their antipodes do both. He is the best physician who gives no medicine till he understands the true condition of the patient.

SOIREE MEDICALE.—Another delightful social entertainment was provided for the students of the Medical College, on Saturday evening last, Feb. 7th,

by the faculty of the institution, at which the prominent medical gentlemen of the city were invited. This is the true method of enlisting friends, and securing their influence in behalf of the school, which we all know is admirably conducted. Young physicians, educated where they receive such marked attentions, will look back, in after years, with agreeable recollections of Boston.

MARRIAGES.

At New York, L. T. Hoyt, Esq., to Miss M. A., daughter of Dr. C. R. Bogart; at New York, Dudley Peet, M. D., to Miss C. W. Hubbell.

DEATHS.

At Malden, Mass., Mrs. Mary E. and S. S. Sullivan, wife and child of John J. Sullivan, M. D.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 31.

Lucius W. Downing 4 mos., Alden E. Robinson 20 do., Michael Cronan 20 do., Catharine Hematy 18 do., Wm. Byrne 20 do., Paul M. Gidney 8 do., Wm. H. Burns 16 do., Rose Carney 18 do., Margaret M. Williams 63 yrs., Fanny Steinmann 36 do., Susannah Keiser 51 do., John Maguire 2 do., Sarah Peted 3 do., Eliza E. Creamour 7 do., Edward W. Thaxter 2 do., Wm. Taff 2 do., Hugh Breslon 3 do., John Sullivan 3 do., Susan M. D. Palmer 6 do., Fanny Chadwick 17 do., James H. Seavers 6 do., John Barry 4 do., John Maroney 76 do., David Coughlan 3 do., Ann Coffee 60 do., John Kohler 3 do., Charles L. Fullam 40 do., Alonzo M. Partridge 8 do., Gilbert Brownell 54 do., Zelley A. Cheveaux 42 do., George H. Stevens 3 do., Genevieve Simmons 5 mos., Juliet I. Keen 7 do., child of Patrick and Mary C. Minton 1 day, William Hanson 2 do., Caroline L. Rice 19 mos., Joanna Butler 8 do., Michael Donahoe 14 do., Michael Connelly 6 do., John Lewis 18 yrs., Christopher Havery 17 do., Michael Mullin 3 do., Joseph Kohler 6 do., Ellen Coughlan 55 do., John Mahoney 47 do., Oliver Martin 45 do., James Fennan 46 do., James Blair 37 do., Catharine E. Lovett 41 do., Benjamin Humphrey 76 do., Elizabeth F. Gurney 77 do., Anthony Remnies 4 do., Eliza Collins 5 do., Michael Regan 33 do., Thos. O'Connell 22 do., Ada G. Whiting 18 do., Adeline G. Keyes 33 do., Simon Jacobs 38 do., Jeremiah McCarty 60 do., Alvan H. Perry 35 do., Elizabeth Burke 3 do., Ebenezer Seaver 33 do., John Kelly 23 do., Joseph Silvia 22 do., Wm. Bower 51 do., Jeremiah Shields 60 do., Robert Foster 3 do., John Doran 8 do., George Walsh 38 do., Joseph T. Nutter 40 do., Caroline Bradley 40 do., Benjamin Goodwin 57 do., Lucy Wade 53 do., Arthur W. Robinson 3 do., Edward A. Cuttle 1 mo., Daniel Hagerty 1 day, Martin Brandon 1 do., Lizzie R. Gamage 11 mos., Henry Evans 45 yrs., Thomas Lannin 67 do., Sarah C. Moore 66 do., Albert J. McLellan 11 do., Caroline Anderson 37 do., William Witherle 46 do., Lucy M. K. Bigelow 26 do.

DISEASES.—Accident 2, congestion of brain 4, consumption 9, diabetes 2, debility 2, dropsy 4, dropsy in head 2, infantile diseases 2, scarlet fever 23, disease of heart 9, inflammation of lungs 3, pleurisy 2, teething 2, tumor 2, other diseases, 1 each, 13. Total 83. 59 were born in the United States, 15 in Ireland, 2 in Scotland, 4 in British Provinces, and 3 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

FEBRUARY 18, 1857.

NUMBER 21.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDREN.

BY A. B. PALMER, M. D., ETC.

Phthisis Pulmonalis is so frequently met with in the adult, and physicians are so much accustomed to consider it in connection with grown-up persons, that they are apt to overlook the fact that it is not unfrequently manifested in children. In addition to this, the obscurity of the symptoms and signs of the disease in this class of patients, or at least their deviations from those manifested in adults, too often cause errors of diagnosis, and as a consequence errors in treatment, sometimes increasing their sufferings and abbreviating their lives. So far from consumption being confined to adults, as is popularly supposed, it is liable to occur at every stage of human existence — from the earliest period of infantile life, if not indeed in the foetal state, to the extremest old age, though by no means with equal frequency at all ages.

It has just been intimated that phthisis in the child differs in its symptoms and signs from the same disease in the adult, and it also differs in many points of its pathological anatomy and its general duration, though in all cases there is the same essential *tubercle* and the same tendency to a fatal result. The main object in the present article is to call attention to this disease in children and point out the leading differences in these two classes of patients.

With regard to the differences in anatomical character between tubercle in the lungs of children and adults, it is found that in children crude miliary tubercles are found alone, independent of gray granulations, very much more frequently than in the adult; and also that gray granulations are found alone, independent of crude miliary tubercles, oftener, though the difference in this latter respect is not as great

as in the former. These peculiarities are due principally, doubtless, to the greater rapidity with which tubercle is deposited in early life, this difference in the rapidity of the deposit constituting another and one of the most marked differences of the disease as occurring in children and grown persons.

In adults, where the deposit is more slowly made, we usually find on post-mortem inspection tubercles in various stages of advancement in different portions of the lungs — in the upper part softened tubercles and cavities, in the lower gray and semi-transparent granulations, while in the intermediate portions yellow crude tubercles. In children, and especially in young infants, tubercles are found in a similar condition in all parts of the lungs, though somewhat more abundantly often in some portions than in others.

In consequence of this same rapid deposit in children as compared with adults, we find yellow infiltration much more frequently, in early life, constituting another difference. For this same reason, cavities are much more rarely found in children than in adults, death being usually produced by the filling up of a large portion of the lungs, sufficient time not usually being given for the ulcerative process, especially in early infancy.

When tubercles are present in the lungs of children, an abundant deposit of the same material much more commonly exists in the bronchial glands than is the case with adults; and the same is true to a considerable extent with other organs, such as the mesenteric glands, the intestines, the peritoneum, spleen, liver, kidneys, pleura, the brain and its membranes, &c.

The symptoms of phthisis in childhood, though resembling those of adult age in many respects, yet differ from them in degree and often in kind, and the more so as the child is younger.

In children there is almost always an absence of hæmoptisis during the whole duration

of the disease ; there is usually an absence of expectoration ; the cough is less, and exhausting night-sweats very rare ; all the symptoms of hectic are less marked, and the alternating diarrhoeas and night sweats, so often present in adults, seldom appear.

Not only do the morbid anatomy and the rational symptoms of phthisis differ in the child and adult, but the auscultatory signs also, and particularly the interpretation which should be given to those signs in the two cases.

As in children, particularly in infants, we very seldom have cavities formed, the auscultatory signs of such cavities are absent, and as in these patients tubercles frequently exist in the crude state in all regions of the lungs nearly alike, there are not presented the same contrasts between the upper and lower parts of the same lung, or between the one side of the chest and the other, as in adults ; and although the presence of tubercle in a particular state must give rise to much the same physical phenomena at whatever age, yet "many of those modifications of the respiratory sound which would warrant us in pronouncing positively that phthisis existed in the adult, cannot be relied on with the same certainty in the child, still less can they be regarded as proving the existence of so large an amount of disease in the latter case as in the former."*

Many of the physical signs are therefore less reliable in the child and have a less grave import.

The prolongation of the expiratory sound beneath the clavicle and the interrupted or uneven respiration, two of the early indications of phthisis in the grown person, are of less value in the child. They have been present in the latter, where, judging from the speedy recoveries which have followed, there could have been little or no tuberculous deposit in the lungs. An exaggeration of these signs, as well as of several other bronchial sounds which usually indicate tubercular consolidation of the lungs in adults, may arise from the tubercular and perhaps other enlargement of the bronchial glands, so frequently occurring in children ; and although tuberculous disease of these glands is usually followed by serious results, they are not nearly as speedy as where the lungs are the seat of the deposit.

Though a careful comparison of auscultation with percussion and of the sounds of one day with those of another will do much toward enabling the distinction to be made between sounds produced from solidification of the lungs

or cavities in their substance and those transmitted from the air-tubes — in the latter case the sounds being much more variable and not corresponding with those given by percussion — yet it is impossible in many instances to determine with certainty whether the bronchial irritation and morbid sounds are produced by the presence of tubercle in the lungs or some other cause.

Contributing to this uncertainty is the absence or difficult appreciation of some auscultatory phenomena in the child to which value is attached in the case of the adult. We can judge much less from the modifications of the voice of the child ; and the great excitability of children causes constant variations of the sounds in short periods. At one visit the right side of the chest may yield the puerile murmur distinctly, while the other admits of very little sound ; and at the next the state of things with regard to the two lungs may be exactly reversed. But more than this — the minuter variations of the sonorosity of the chest, as afforded by percussion, are not so easily distinguished in childhood as in more advanced age. The chest in early childhood is much more resonant than in adult life, and will admit of very considerable reduction before percussion elicits sounds which would be recognized as at all dull. The change must be great, the ear well-trained, and the percussion extremely gentle to enable the practitioner to decide by this means.

Dr. Charles West, in the classic work on Diseases of Children already referred to, sums up the general characteristics of pulmonary tuberculosis in early life as follows : —

"1st. The frequent latency of the thoracic symptoms during its early stages.

"2d. The almost invariable absence of hæmoptisis at the commencement of the disease, and its comparatively rare occurrence during its subsequent progress.

"3d. The partial or complete absence of expectoration.

"4th. The rarity of profuse general sweats, and the ill-marked characters of the hectic symptoms, and

"5th. The frequency with which death takes place from intercurrent bronchitis or pneumonia."

The differences in the auscultatory signs have been sufficiently designated in the foregoing remarks.

In some unusual cases of phthisis in children, and particularly in young children, there are even greater deviations from the course

* West on Diseases of Children, p. 284.

of the disease in adults, than the preceding remarks would seem to indicate. It occasionally runs its course with such rapidity that many of the characteristic symptoms have not time to manifest themselves. In one of the cases which I shall relate, from the extreme rapidity of the disease emaciation did not occur, the child dying from suffocation in comparatively full flesh.

Some of these rapid cases resemble strongly some of the cases of *atelektasis*, or collapse of the lung, another disease incident to early childhood, but a description of which the limits of this article will not allow.

The following cases illustrative of phthisis in children are added:—

CASE 1. In April, 1851, I was called to visit a very interesting boy, about two years old, of delicate, but harmonious development, and born, not of robust, but still, not of phthisical parents. He had been ill some three weeks and under the care of another practitioner, who had been sent by the family physician to attend the case during his absence from the city, but who had not given satisfaction to the family, was not their choice and had been dismissed.

The most marked symptoms presenting themselves were, very frequent breathing, a frequent, short and rather stuffing cough, rapid pulse and considerable, though not severe fever, varying much in intensity at different portions of the day. The chief auscultatory signs were, a diffused crepitation through both lungs and various bronchial rales, changing in character and intensity at different times in different portions of the lungs.

He was put upon a soothing and expectorant course of treatment, but the difficulty of breathing increased, the blood was very imperfectly aerated, the surface became somewhat livid, the extremities became cool and slightly swollen, while the trunk was warmer, and in about a week from the time of his coming under my care, sunk and died from irritation and diminished respiration.

A post mortem inspection revealed extensive tubercular deposits throughout the entire lungs. These deposits existed in the form of yellow miliary tubercle, of some degree of tubercular infiltration, and of some masses of crude yellow tubercle of the size of peas, some larger and some smaller. The portions of lung not so much filled with tubercle, showed evidence of inflammation, in some portions red, and in others gray hepatization having occurred, and many of the bronchial glands had under-

gone tubercular enlargement and degeneration.

CASE 2. Oct. 24th, 1856, was called to see a male infant, just *twelve weeks* old, of quite the usual size and in a good state of flesh, born of healthy parents, English by birth, living in thriving circumstances. Some members of the father's family had been subject to scrofula, though it had not prevailed to much extent among them; and the mother's family were very healthy and robust.

The symptoms presented by the child were, short and rapid breathing, a short, but rather tight cough, and a somewhat livid countenance. The pulse was not far from normal, and there was scarcely any appearance of fever. All the history that could be obtained, was that for a week or two before, the child had seemed to have a cold, as was supposed to be indicated by a slight cough, and somewhat more rapid breathing than natural, which had gradually increased until they had thought it necessary to call in advice.

On applying the ear to the fore part of the chest, the puerile respiration was distinct and nearly natural; on the back part of the chest, however, the respiratory murmur was very obscure, bronchial breathing, more distinctly at some times than others, being heard in its place.

From the non-appearance of inflammatory symptoms and the absence of anything like the ordinary tuberculous cachexy, the nature of the case was not clearly apprehended, and although the child had been as vigorous in muscular activity as other children, *atelektasis* or collapse of the posterior portion of the lungs was suspected. Occasional vomiting with Syrup of Ipecacuanha was directed, together with the rubbing of the chest with a stimulating liniment. From this treatment the respiration sound slightly improved, but on the 27th, when the little patient was again visited and examined, all the symptoms had slightly increased, without any other change. The stimulating frictions were continued, a mild emetic of Ipecac was ordered once a day, and a prescription of Iodide of Potassium in Glycerine and Syrup of Tolu was given, a suitable dose directed once in four hours. A suspicion was now entertained that there might be some structural change, the result of a very obscure congestive or possibly inflammatory process, causing effusions into the posterior portion of the lungs.

It is unnecessary to follow in detail the appearances and treatment. It is sufficient

to say, that the symptoms gradually increased; the cough, though not very severe, was harassing; the breathing became exceedingly short, and if interrupted for an instant, suffocation seemed impending; the child fretted and moaned rather than cried; the countenance became more and more livid; the extremities became cold; but little else than bronchial sounds could be heard in any part of the chest. The treatment was changed to stimulating and supporting, but on the 12th of November death ensued from apnoea.

A post mortem inspection on the 13th, in which I was assisted by my friend Dr. E. Andrews, showed yellow miliary tubercles thickly deposited throughout almost the entire lungs, the apex and back portion having the most, and the anterior parts decidedly the least. The bronchial glands were not affected, and there were no appearances of pulmonary or bronchial inflammation. The little cadaver was plump and round, and there was an abundance of adipose tissue in every part.

In this case tuberculosis appeared at an earlier period, ran a more rapid course, was freer from inflammatory or other complications, and the child died in a better state of flesh than in any other with which I am acquainted. For these reasons it possesses peculiar interest.

Since writing the above, Prof. Sager has communicated the following interesting case, illustrating farther the disease presented. He says:—

The pathological history of the following case is necessarily imperfect from the fact that it but seldom came under my observation.

The subject of the disease was the first-born of parents, both of whom were young and nearly connected by ties of consanguinity. The father was feeble and of a marked strumous constitution; the mother was modestly robust and of a sanguineo-bilious temperament. From its birth, the infant was affected by a slight and frequent cough which did not for some time attract serious attention. The progress of the disease was marked by an increased frequency of the cough, sometimes paroxysmal, but more frequently of a hacking character; dyspnoea and gradual emaciation which, however, never became very great, and slight, but distinctly marked hectic. It died at about five months.

At the post mortem examination the lungs were found studded with miliary tubercles, especially marked in the superior lobes. Many of the bronchial glands were also filled with deposit, and varied in size from that of a millet seed to the dimensions of a filbert. In none

of them was a trace of softening detected. The viscera of the abdominal and the cranial cavities were carefully inspected, but no tubercular deposits were observed. — *Penin. Jour. of Med.*

POISON OF PARTRIDGES.

In 1854, an instructive volume was published by Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, with this title — *Nature and Disease, illustrated by various Discourses and Essays, to which are added Miscellaneous Writings, chiefly on Medical Subjects, by Jacob Bigelow, M. D.* Reference to a work two years old may be considered quite behind the times; but if an apology were at all necessary for noticing this unpretending volume, we can say without hesitation, it is because it has not been prized as it should be, and read and re-read, that this opportunity is embraced for recalling to recollection its bibliographical existence.

Dr. Bigelow, through the whole course of his professional career, thus far, has been a man of deep thought, and his professional writings bear examination and re-examination on account of the clearness of his reasoning, their freedom from harsh technicalities, and the practical common-sense application to be made of them.

"*Nature and Disease*" made no particular sensation at the period of publication; but it is one of those books that will have a prominent place in a choice library, long after the man who wrote it is only known to have been a learned physician, in the pages of some future biographical dictionary.

There are no bold figures in the author's sentences; nothing like coruscations of wit, nor, in fact, any thing remarkable beyond the very thing itself which gives a specific value to each and every essay and dissertation from his pen, which may be called a profound philosophical power of analysis.

The article on *Self-limited Disease* might be cited in illustration of this proposition. There is not a more original view of the laws of disease, or the laws of life, than are embraced in that paper. Had it emanated from Sir Charles, Sir Benjamin, or some other prominent medical attendant on the court in England, there is no calculating the miles of circulation it would have had in half a dozen European languages. In that important, and to our mind, profitable study for every order of medical practitioner, are discoverable the

elements of a new system, new to those who never perceived it in nature, viz., that in the treatment of many diseases, medicines are really of small value; and still further, it begins to be now admitted, they may often do more harm than good. Here is a point, however, where Dr. Bigelow has been extremely cautious.

It was not intended when these prefatory observations were commenced, to extend them further than simply introduce the subjoined extract by claiming for it a respectful attention on account of the celebrity of the medical gentleman from whom it emanated. This being the season when poisoning from partridge eating occurs, if at all, it cannot be otherwise than acceptable scientific intelligence from eminent authority, and therefore useful to the patient as well as the physician. Hereafter, further comments upon Dr. Bigelow's excellent medico-literary labors may occupy these columns.

ON THE POISONOUS EFFECTS OF THE AMERICAN PARTRIDGE, OR RUFFED GROUSE.

—The *Tetrao umbellus* of Linnaeus, variously called Partridge in the northern and eastern States, Pheasant in Pennsylvania and the western States, and "Ruffed Grouse" by Wilson Nuttall, and Audubon, appears to inhabit the continent from Hudson's Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. It is a handsome bird of the Gallinaceous tribe, with mottled plumage, the tail 18 feathered, speckled, and barred with black, and with a black subterminal band. The male has a ruff of broad black feathers on the sides of the neck, the female a smaller ruff of a dusky brown. Its favorite resorts are mountainous regions covered with evergreen trees, and in more cultivated countries it often frequents apple-trees, which are secluded or concealed by woods, having a fondness for the buds of this tree. It is well known to residents in the interior, by the drumming noise which in the pairing season it makes with its wings, and also by the stratagem with which the mother protects her young by an illusive demonstration of surrendering herself in their place.

The partridge is quite common in the eastern States, and constitutes one of the most frequent kind of game in our markets. The flesh is much prized for the delicacy of its flavor, and is in its greatest perfection in September and October. It feeds in Summer on wild

berries, and at other seasons on the leaves, buds, and seeds of various plants.

It is generally known, that although vast numbers of these birds are every year consumed with impunity, yet instances now and then happen of persons being apparently poisoned or made sick with alarming symptoms, soon after swallowing their flesh. The following cases are selected from among a larger number, which have been observed by myself or my medical friends, and of which a part are in the records of the Society of Medical Improvement.

CASE I.—A gentleman of this city having dined at Worcester in part upon partridge, took the cars for Boston half an hour afterwards. In an hour after entering, he was taken with sensations like those of sea-sickness, accompanied with dizziness and great prostration of strength. With difficulty he got his head out and vomited from the window of the car. He continued faint, cold, dizzy, and unable to sit up, with ringing in the ears and imperfect vision. He was conveyed to his house in a sinking and nearly insensible state. When I first saw him, he was cold and moist, with a slow intermittent and very feeble pulse, difficult comprehension, and sluggish utterance. He had vomited again with some relief. His vision was partially recovered. Stimulants had been given him, with hot applications and frictions to the surface, under which he gradually recovered.

CASE II.—A lady of delicate health took at dinner a small piece of the breast and leg of a partridge. Two hours afterwards she became suddenly faint, and her physician (Dr. Putnam) was called. She was found by him in a sitting posture on the bed, supported by two assistants, with the body bent forward. The surface was generally cold, countenance pale and sunken, and voice feeble. There was slight frequent convulsive action of the muscles. The pupils were dilated, with loss of vision. Pulse irregular, feeble, at times nearly imperceptible. There was drowsiness approaching to insensibility, nausea and vomiting. Spirituous stimulants were given and ipecacuanha, with warmth, friction and sinapisms externally. Soon after free vomiting took place there was evident amendment. The sensibility returned, questions were comprehended, but the answers were slow and laborious. In the course of two or three hours vision was restored with contraction of the pupils and intolerance of light, with a remaining sense of numbness and uneasiness in the head.

CASE III.—A man aged sixty, who had always been healthy, but within a few months troubled with shortness of breath, which his physician attributed to some affection of the heart, ate the white meat of a partridge, avoiding the dark meat and the parts contiguous to it. About an hour afterwards he went to church, where he was shortly taken with a sensation of distress at the stomach, which he referred to the disagreement of his food. He endeavored to resist this annoyance, and kept his seat for some time, but at length his sight totally left him, he became faint, and fell. He was carried out of church, and laid on his back in the open air. At this time there was no pulse, and the respiration was hardly perceptible. These symptoms were at first attributed by those around to the suspected disease of the heart, but in the course of ten minutes he began to revive. The first word he uttered was "poisoned," and the second, "the partridge." He soon began to revive, sat up, got upon his feet with assistance, but had lost all power over his legs, and was unable to stand. He was now put into a carriage, some pressure was made upon the stomach, and he began to vomit. Ipecac and warm water were given him until the stomach was fully evacuated. He remained somewhat delirious for a few hours, but on the following day was restored to his customary health.

CASE IV.—A gentleman, twenty-six years of age, dined at 5 P. M. on soup, boiled tongue and potatoes, and ate the leg and part of the breast of a partridge. He afterwards went to a club room, and remained till 8. On going out at this time he became chilly, and felt a sharp pain through the temples. He repaired to a shop for some soda-water, and while standing there was affected with vertigo and a "trance-like" feeling. This was followed by ringing in the ears, and a remarkable sense of coldness, mostly in the back of the neck and shoulders. He was unable to get warm at the fire, and the sensation given to bystanders by his head was compared to that of the contact of a stone jar. He had taken hot spirit and water, and was sitting up when seen by Dr. Holmes at 9 o'clock. At this time the voice and expression were natural, mind a little excited, vision dim at times and once or twice quite lost, pupils widely dilated and equal, contracting but slightly on the approach of a light, hands rather cold, pulse 76, regular, small but not thready, no nausea nor vomiting. Took wine of ipecac, and threw off freely portions of food. In the course of

half an hour was thoroughly relieved, but was languid and costive next day.

Two or three other persons, as it appeared, had partaken of the same partridge without obvious inconvenience.

CASE V.—A gentleman, aged seventy-four, of full habit and subject to gout, ate at breakfast the black meat of one partridge. In an hour or two he went to church, where he soon became sick, faint and dizzy. On being carried home he was found in a state approaching that of collapse, pale, livid, cold, nearly pulseless, and without vision. His appearance was that of a dying man with glazed eyes and gasping for breath. Had repeated nausea, but vomited fluids only. Took stimulants, principally hot gin and water, and gradually recovered, after passing a restless night with much thirst. It was remarked that others of the family ate the white meat of the same bird without any disagreeable consequences.

CASE VI.—A female who had eaten at 12 o'clock of the white and black meat of a partridge, in half an hour was taken with pain in the chest and throat, nausea, weakness and loss of sight. Was seen by her physician at 4 P. M. Her pulse was 54, and hardly perceptible. After taking brandy and water and half a drachm of ipecac, her pulse improved in strength, but was still 54 only. Her mind remained clear, and the most remarkable symptoms were the blindness and slow and feeble pulse.

CASE VII.—An elderly gentleman, of full habit, breakfasted in part on a partridge. In two hours he was seized with dizziness, partial loss of consciousness, and violent pain extending through the abdomen to the back. When visited by Dr. H. J. Bigelow, he was found on his hands and knees, cold, faint, partly insensible and nearly pulseless. The pain having subsided, returned at intervals, causing him to call often to have his back rubbed. After an emetic he was much relieved, and rallied slowly in the course of the afternoon.

CASE VIII.—For this and the two following, I am indebted to Dr. Morrill Wyman.

A very athletic and active man, aged fifty, at times making very great and long-continued exertion and eating freely, February 14, 1849, took supper at 7 P. M.; ate two roasted partridges, with ale and other liquors. At 8 o'clock felt somewhat heavy, and thinking he had eaten too much supper, proposed to go to the bowling alley for exercise. In a few minutes perceived that the lights in the room had a blue tinge, the fire also; asked if any new

kind of burning fluid had been used, and immediately fell, with loss of consciousness. Just previously to the loss of consciousness, had pain in the back of the neck, extending down along the spine and into the arm. In ten or fifteen minutes partially recovered, — then again unconscious; muscles of limbs completely relaxed; face very pale; respiration four to six times per minute; pulse 18 to 22; hands and feet cold and moist; groaned frequently; vomited freely and spontaneously, and afterwards under the influence of mustard flour mixed with warm water. Warm blankets and bottles of hot water were applied to the epigastrium and limbs, and in the course of two hours he had recovered his consciousness and drank warm tea. Slept well during the night. In the morning was quite well.

CASE IX.—Same individual. February 23, 1850, went into the country in the morning and rode till 3 o'clock, P. M.; then sat down in the open air and ate part of a partridge, but it was so bitter that the remainder was thrown away; drank a wine-glass of brandy. Took railroad train, and on leaving it in thirty-five minutes walked from fifteen to twenty minutes, when (about one hour after eating the partridge,) had pain in the back of the neck and limbs. Passed a house, and observed that the lights appeared blue, and immediately suspected the partridge of being the cause of his troubles. Soon after, found himself at the bottom of a steep declivity, having lost his consciousness and rolled down a bank. Got up, and walked to a house; and again noticed the blue lights. In attempting to take a glass of cold water again lost his consciousness and fell; was carried home, and after taking mustard flour, vomited and was soon relieved. Before vomiting, respiration very slow and not more than half the usual number of inspirations. Pulse 42 per minute; hands and feet cold and the face pale. During the periods of loss of consciousness, which did not continue more than five minutes at a time, the limbs were quite powerless. The recovery was sudden, and the action energetic; speech impeded, apparently from want of muscular power. Time elapsed between first symptoms and relief by vomiting, from an hour and a half to two hours.

CASE X.—Mrs. W., aged forty-five, ate for dinner, two days before the date of the last case, a part of a roasted partridge, bought at the same time with that used by her husband. This, also, was extremely bitter, and only a small quantity eaten. After dinner walked a

mile to a conservatory; when near the conservatory felt weak, pain in both back of neck and limbs. Felt faint in the conservatory, and obliged to return to the open air; was nauseated, but did not vomit. Immediately walked towards home; found her limbs unsteady, obliged to run and then stop and support herself by the fence; was compelled to lie down, but did not lose consciousness; was carried home. The pain in the back of the neck and limbs continued till 9 o'clock, when she went to bed. Had occasionally some difficulty of breathing, a catching of the breath; in the morning was quite well.

Neither of these individuals have eaten partridges since.

The principal and most characteristic symptoms were loss of consciousness; relaxation of the muscles, and in one instance of the sphincters; paleness; cold feet and hands; slow and infrequent respiration, and slow and infrequent but regular pulse. The act of vomiting was followed by almost immediate relief.

To these cases may be added a number more, the outlines of which have been communicated by different medical friends.

From a general analysis of the symptoms produced, it appears that under certain circumstances the flesh of the partridge acts as a direct sedative poison, impairing the functions of the brain, and, in connection, those of the digestive and circulating systems. The cerebral symptoms, in a majority of cases, have been vertigo, loss of sight, tinnitus aurium, and in bad cases general loss of the power of sensation and voluntary motion. Respiration has been slow, sometimes to a great degree. In the circulating system there has been syncope, feeble and sometimes irregular action of the heart; weak, slow, and sometimes imperceptible pulse; cold surface, and pale or livid complexion. In the digestive system there is oppression, nausea with tendency to vomit, and in many cases pain in the abdomen extending through to the back. In more rare cases pain has been felt in the head and limbs.

The foregoing morbid symptoms have mostly appeared within two or three hours after taking the food. But instances have occurred in which persons have been taken before leaving the table.

The poison of the partridge has never, to my knowledge, proved fatal. The remedies usually and properly resorted to, are a prompt emetic, accompanied or followed by stimulants, if the prostration is urgent. Free spontaneous vomiting not unfrequently removes the difficul-

ty before the physician arrives. Acrid stimulants, such as a teaspoonful of mustard, may serve the double purpose of a quick emetic and an incitant to the depressed vital powers. Spirits, and other diffusible stimulants are indicated by the sinking condition of the patient, but the anxiety of friends often leads to their excessive administration, for which the patient pays by a prolonged continuance of his narcotism. Friction and external warmth are indicated and generally desired by the patient.

The flesh of the partridge is justly esteemed as a great delicacy, and is abundantly sold in the markets of this and many other cities. Audubon says of it: "In my humble opinion it far surpasses as an article of food any land bird we have in the United States, except the wild turkey." It is in its best condition in the fall of the year, and continues to be common throughout the winter. We have hardly any species of game which is sought for with more avidity, or consumed, in proportion to its size, in greater numbers. As a general rule, it is, and may be taken with perfect impunity.

The fact that the meat of the partridge occasionally proves poisonous, has given rise to much speculation in regard to the cause. The point most generally admitted respecting it, is, that its bad effects chiefly, if not always, take place in winter, when the ground is covered with snow. This circumstance has given rise to a popular belief that the noxious quality in the meat of the bird is attributable to some poisonous food on which, in winter, it is driven to subsist. And a prevalent suspicion has been fixed upon the mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), on the buds and leaves of which the partridge has been supposed to feed in cold weather. But this suspicion appears to be not well founded, since I have observed in experiments made purposely, that the leaves of the kalmia are not particularly poisonous, when taken into the human stomach in any quantity which the bird would be likely to devour; and the crops, when examined in winter, are found to contain leaves and fragments of most of the wild evergreen plants which are in verdure at that time. I have found among other things portions of leaves of *Pyrola*, *Gaultheria*, *Smilax*, *Coptis*, *Mitchella*—also buds of *Azalea*, alder and apple tree, which latter appears to be a favorite food with the partridge.

It is, furthermore, not very probable that the common process of putrid decomposition is concerned in producing the noxious effects in question, for this circumstance would be

generally detected by the taste, and the incipient putrescency so often recognized in game is usually corrected by the antiseptic effect of the gastric juice.

More probable solutions of the difficulty are, 1. That the bird is affected with some disease at the time of its death. 2. That some slow chemical change not putractive, may take place when the flesh is long kept in cold weather, as observed by my friend Dr. Cabot. 3. That the idiosyncrasy of individuals renders some persons intolerant of this species of food. This latter supposition is sustained by the facts, that the same person has sometimes been affected twice,—that a majority of persons, partaking of the same partridge, escape unharmed, when others are poisoned,—and that individuals are found who cannot eat lobster, mackerel and certain other kinds of food without suffering symptoms approaching in character to those already described.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK—SEMI-CENTENNIAL MEETING.

The Society met pursuant to Statute, at 11 o'clock this morning, (Tuesday, Feb. 3,) in the Common Council Chamber.

A large number of permanent members and delegates were present.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. ALDEN MARCH, of Albany.

The President presented the resignation of the Secretary, Dr. HOWARD TOWNSEND. The resignation was accepted.

On motion of Dr. GEORGE W. BRADFORD, Dr. WILLARD, of Albany, was appointed Secretary.

The President then delivered his Inaugural Address.

The inaugural address was, on motion of Dr. GOODRICH, referred to the Committee of Publication.

The President appointed the following Committee for nominating officers for the ensuing year; Drs. Goodrich, Monell, Blatchford, Diefendorf, Coventry, Purple, Burwell, Thompson.

A Committee was appointed to invite the physicians of the Legislature to a seat in the Society as honorary members, and a Committee to ask the use of the Assembly Chamber for the Address of the President on Wednesday evening.

Prof. J. V. LANSING, of New York, and Dr. ELIAS P. MEICALE, of Genesec, took seats as honorary members.

A Committee was appointed to invite the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and members of the Legislature to attend the meetings of the Society.

Dr. SAUNDERS, presented the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed to take into consideration so much of the President's address as relates to *post mortem* examinations before Coroners and the charges of the same, and that they report at this meeting.

Dr. BLATCHFORD read a biographical sketch of the late Dr. SAMUEL McCLELLAND, of Rensselaer County.

On the second day of the meeting, there was a discussion on the temperance question, which closed with the following resolution:

Resolved, That, in view of the ravages made upon the morals, health and property of the people of this State, by the use of alcoholic drinks, it is the opinion of the Society that the moral, sanitary and pecuniary condition of the State would be promoted by the passage of a Prohibitory Liquor Law.

Dr. March's discourse is spoken of as excellent. If he writes as well as he operates, it could not fail of being appreciated.

Homœopathic Medical Society of New Jersey.—The annual meeting occurred Feb. 3, at Trenton. Officers elected for the year ensuing:—President, Dr. J. R. Andrews, of Camden; 1st Vice President, Dr. J. J. Youlin, Jersey City; 2d do., Dr. John D. Moore, Burlington; 3d do., Dr. James Green, Elizabeth City; Recording Secretary, Dr. J. B. Petherbridge, Hoboken; Provisional Secretary, Dr. R. M. Wilkinson, Bordentown; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. J. B. Scott, Newark; Treasurer, Dr. R. Titsworth, Plainfield.

Board of Censors.—Dr. Thomas Lafon, Newark, Chairman; Dr. J. W. Jackson, Bloomfield; Dr. J. C. Boardman, Trenton; Dr. Chas. E. Blumenthal, New Brunswick; Dr. J. B. Stretch, Salem.

Bureau of Materia Medica.—Dr. C. E. Blumenthal, Chairman; Drs. R. Titsworth of Plainfield, Moore of Bridgeton, Ward of Newark, and Bassett of Paterson.

COMMUNICATIONS.

OSSIFICATION OF THE PLEURA.

The body of a female mulatto, about 35 to 40 years old, exhibited the following peculiarities, viz.:—A marked depression of the left side, beginning near the superior border of the mammary gland and axilla and terminating with the lower rib, which, as a consequence, was especially prominent and appeared to be elevated. The sternum being removed, the heart and its surroundings were found to be in a healthy state. The left lung nearly filled the left contracted cavity of the thorax, but was scarcely more than half the size of the right lung. On being removed, it was found to adhere with such tenacity to the entire costal surface that, with the utmost possible care, it was impossible to detach it, without more or less of violence to the organ. This was especially true at the apex, and also below the axilla, where there was found a cavity, of the shape and size of half a common hen's egg divided through the longer diameter, and presenting a distinct and well-defined border; into this oval cup the compressed lung had been crowded, and to its walls it strongly adhered. Near the middle of the organ, in two or three places, were found some very considerable tubercular deposits. Otherwise it appeared healthy.

The right lung was of normal size, but diseased throughout. The apex exhibited several cavities from the size of a pea to that of a large chestnut. The middle lobe was hepaticized, and both this and the upper lobe were closely adhering to the costal pleura.

Only the lower lobe was at all pervious to air, and that only in the inferior portion. Some half a dozen straps of false membrane, from $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch to an inch and a half in length, and from $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch to an inch or more in width, bound it to the costal wall, while a covering of a similar membrane enveloped nearly the whole of the lower lobe, of the thickness of a tanned sheep skin and resembling one in appearance. The right cavity of the chest contained $\frac{1}{2}$ a pint of suo-purulent fluid.

After removing the lungs the left costal wall was found to be peculiarly inflexible. The intercostals were atrophied and the ribs in close juxtaposition. A scalpel being introduced from without, between them, met a resisting earthy substance which it could not penetrate.

In short, nearly the entire left costal pleura

was ossified and solid, of the thickness of stout pasteboard. Scarcely an exception was found, save the oval space mentioned above, under the axilla, upon the fifth and sixth ribs; and a triangular space of 4 or 5 square inches bounded superiorly by the ossification and inferiorly by the diaphragm and the spine.

This singular specimen of morbid anatomy was presented to Dr. J. S. B. Jackson, Prof. of Morbid Anatomy in the Mass. Medical College.

W. BUSHNELL, M. D.

Boston, Feb. 4th, 1857.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

MEDICAL SCRIBBLINGS.

MESSRS. EDITORS: For once I beg you to lay aside your *ensor* scissors, as they brought me in my first communication into some trouble by beheading the same, and spoiling its tail, or giving my initials wrong. I did not intend to write an article on Belladonna, but only to make some remarks on its abuse, or humbug, as a prophylactic against scarlatina. If, by my peculiar way of expression, personal sensibilities have been roused, I cannot help it: literary kid gloves never do good. So does Dr. W. N. Cornell seem to have taken quite an umbrage, and tries to give me a counter handling in No. 18. As, however, he did not contradict my remarks, making only personal allusions, I will give those in substance, and then briefly my answer. He says:

1. That I am at liberty to read those twenty-eight pages of Dr. Porcher at his office, and convince myself if he mentioned Hahnemann's name or not.

2. That he finds it much queerer of me to conceal my full name, than of the writer in the *Traveller*.

3. That he hopes I should not write again without reading first those twenty-eight pages, and then sign my name, so to know by whom he is criticised.

To 1. If Dr. Porcher has mentioned Hahnemann's name or not, it does not affect my remarks. Though his pages may contain some interesting individual observations, yet I acknowledge but one original writer on Belladonna in its relation as prophylactic against scarlatina, and that is Hahnemann.

To 2. I suppose the only reason why the writer in the *Traveller* and myself withheld our names, was the want of a proper elevation of a certain bump.

To 3. I believe one acquainted with the

medical literature of Europe can assume to write on medical topics without having perused Dr. Porcher's pages.

This time I must of course sign my full name, yet say in conclusion, that I never criticise persons, but only views and acts.

JOSEPH BIRNSTILL.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN BALTIMORE.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Although not a recognized correspondent by appointment, the communications that have appeared in your columns from several points of compass were of so much interest to me that I have concluded to explain, for the gratification of those who might like to know the medical prospects of this city, in a similar manner.

Baltimore is already a great place. The beauty of its location; its commercial energy; the long line of railroad communications with the interior, together with the industry, wealth, generosity and high-toned character of the people, indicate a glorious future.

It would be excessively out of reason to oppress you with statistics; to show what the inhabitants have been doing to raise Baltimore to the position it proudly occupies. Rest assured that the medical profession has never been wanting either in talent or skill, in maintaining with dignity, whatever devolved upon them, towards giving a good name and a grace to cultivated society.

Whatever of science may exist in any of the American cities, is especially within the keeping of medical men. Considering the ceaseless demands upon them, it is really extraordinary that they have been able to maintain this general reputation for being the prominent philosophers.

We have capital operating surgeons. It might be improper to designate any one as superior to another, and hence it may be prudent, at least, to mention no one by name. Whatever is accomplished by surgical instruments anywhere, can be executed here with as much adroitness, and science too, as in Boston, New York or Philadelphia.

The practising physicians of Baltimore have no superiors, nor are they anywhere held in higher estimation for social qualities, and that kindness of heart and consideration for the patient, which endears them to the community. No poor are slighted in their sickness—no rich flattered for the sake of their patronage.

Dentistry has more rank here than at the East, South or West. Here is a school for their special education, which long ago was raised by an act of legislation to the dignity of a college, with authority for conferring diplomas. You must be familiar with its history and character, from the fact that you very frequently referred to the institution with approbation, while editing the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. You also know that nearly every work regarded as authority on scientific and mechanical dentistry, emanated from Baltimore.

Before I become prosy, allow me to declare upon the word of a patient waiter for patients, that there is no standing room left here for another. We are too thick and too many for the population. He is in luck who has a broken head to bandage, after sitting in his office two years, like a spider on the web, watching for a fly. But Solomon assures us that time and chance happen to all men, so that by the time I am as old as Methuselah, my expectations of a full paying practice may be realized.

One of the obstacles in the way of all our prospects in the line of practice, is the inauguration of homœopathy. How can it be explained that our most intelligent citizens give them the preference over those who have a hard-earned reputation of wide renown? No sooner does one of this new school take a residence, than he goes into an exceedingly profitable practice. Is there no law in this country to put down this Hahnemannism?

This communication has extended over more paper than was contemplated, and yet not a word has been uttered respecting medical lectures, the faculty, the hospital privileges and other things purely professional, which we of the fraternity are curious to know. If this first attempt is received graciously, expect further attentions from,

Sir, your obedient servant,

J. W. T., M.D.

Baltimore, Feb. 10, 1857.

Mortality among Horses.—According to the London Veterinarian, in estimating the mortality among horses according to age, we find the fewest deaths among nine-year old horses, viz., 51 per 1000. Among those thirteen years old and upwards, 54 per 1000. The maximum of deaths occurred at six years of age, viz., 83 per 1000. Next to these, come horses of eight years old, 77 per 1000. In the other ages, the mortality has fluctuated between 60 and 67 per 1000.

FLOATING FACTS.

[Presuming these weekly columns of Floating Facts may be useful to those collecting materials for publications at a future period on physiological subjects,—medicine, surgery, chemistry, midwifery, and other branches of knowledge which belong to a course of professional reading,—we have adopted this plan of furnishing important matter in the fewest words.

In preparing lectures, writing communications for journals, either literary or scientific, an immense amount of matter for strengthening an argument, illustrating propositions, and giving an interest to a variety of topics within the legitimate range of medical studies, may be found in these paragraphs. They are useful for reference, and are certainly more or less instructive, independent of the pleasure derived from the facts they present. We therefore propose to continue this particular feature of THE MEDICAL WORLD, till a majority of its patrons request an alteration.]

Over-working the Brain of Children.—An exchange says that Dr. Robinson is the author of the accompanying remarks, on over-taxing the youthful brain. It is a misfortune not to know what Dr. Robinson, among the hundreds of that name, to express our convictions of the value of his philosophizing.

The minds of children ought to be little, if at all, taxed till the brain's development is nearly completed, or until the age of six or seven years. And will those years be wasted; or will the future man be more likely to be deficient in mental power than one who is differently treated? Those years will not be wasted. The great book of nature is opened to the infant's and the child's prying investigation; and from nature's page may be learned more useful information than is contained in all the children's books that have ever been published. But even supposing those years to have been absolutely lost, which is anything but the case, will the child be eventually a loser thereby? We contend, with our author, that he will not. Task the mind during the earlier years, and you only expose the child to a greater risk of a disordered brain—not only, it may be, lay the foundation for a morbid excitability of brain, that may one day end in insanity—but you debilitate its bodily powers, and by so doing, to all intents and purposes, the mind will be a loser in its powers and capabilities.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in Roxbury.—The city clerk reports the whole number of births in 1856, returned to him, as 630; whole number of marriages, 230; and the whole number of deaths in the same period, 403.

American Heads.—Before the New-York Academy of Medicine, Dr. M'Elharan, announced that he had traced the Celtic type back through Italy, Greece, Asia Minor and Egypt, and asserted that the Americans were of Celtic, and not Anglo-Saxon origin, which he pretended to prove by their history of emigration, their language, their conformation, &c. He gave statistics, furnished by several of the leading hatters, dentists and hair-dealers of New-York, and other cities. One hatter of New-York, who sends to all parts of the Union, reported that Virginia and the Western States required larger hats than the other States. New England heads are of about the same size as those of the New-Yorkers.

The Irish are larger than those of any race in this country. The Celtic head is a long oval, as is observed among the Irish and Scotch. The English head is also long, but not so uniformly oval as the Irish. The average American head is a long oval, exactly the same shape, but smaller than the Irish; it is the most easily fitted, because it is the most regularly formed, and because the hat blocks are made to suit the national form and size. The Germans have smaller heads than the Irish, but they wear larger hats than the Americans. They have very irregular formed heads, approaching in shape an irregular square, broad and flat behind, and flat on top. The great breadth between the ears throws the hat out of shape, so that the brim is turned up in front and behind, unless the hat is especially made to fit. Several old manufacturers and retailers assert that the American head is diminishing, and that the Western States, colonized by foreigners, have the largest sizes.

Supernumerary Feet.—There is a thrifty, well grown shoat, said to be about six months old, belonging to J. Salmons, of Patrick County, Va., which has eight fair, distinct feet, on which it walks. Its legs seem to commence a fork about the knee joints, and continue to widen until they get near the feet, and then finally separate.

Vegetarian Community.—In Kansas, the vegetable eaters, those who believe that no animal food is either necessary or allowable, had a location selected for them by a delegation, but not being favorably impressed with the spot, a majority of the faternity have scattered, but a few remain at Neosha, who are trying to re-organize.

Magnetic Force.—In order to register the intensity of strength of the magnetic force, a bar magnet is suspended by two parallel silk threads, about an inch apart, descending from two hooks fastened to the under side of a plate attached to the ceiling, or some other support. The plate is then made to revolve through an arc of a circle, until, by the force of torsion, the bar is deflected from a north and south to an east and west direction. It is thus kept in a state of equilibrium between the force of torsion of the threads, tending to turn its north end round still farther to the south, and the magnetism of the earth, on the other hand, tending to bring it back to its north and south direction. If in this position the magnetism of the earth becomes stronger, it will prevail, and the north end of the needle will turn towards the north; if the magnetism of the earth diminishes in intensity, the force of torsion will prevail, and the same end will move towards the south. These motions are recorded by a beam of light on the paper surface of the revolving cylinder.

Recent Discoveries in Africa.—In geology, the discoveries of Dr. Livingston are important, comprising coal, some seams of which were fifty-seven inches broad, ores of iron and of copper, with extensive fossilized animal and vegetable remains. The fauna is even more abundant than in any hitherto visited parts of Southern Africa, making the country almost one den of wild beasts. The larger animals consisted of the elephant, the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, some half dozen of the horse family, but not the noble animal himself, the Cape ox, the lion and his favorite prey, the bounding antelope of numerous species, from the size of a hare to that of a heifer. Dr. Livingston had the good fortune to add three new species to the number already known.

The teeming frequency of savage animals points but too clearly at the paucity of the human race. The pleasant plateau is occupied by pure negroes, but the country immediately south of it by Caffres.

Odor of Strychnine.—On Saturday last, Mrs. Polly Noyes, engaged in nursing a sick man in Salisbury, Vt., inhaled by accident the odor arising from an uncorked bottle of strychnine, and in a few hours after died. What disease had the patient that required that quantity of deadly poison among the medicines on his table?

Eustis St. Dispensary, Roxbury.—A new medical dispensary has been established in this city, under the auspices of the Catholic brethren, which is conferring great benefit on the poor. Drs. Storer and Hayward, are the medical officers of the institution.

FIRST QUARTER, 20TH OCT. 1856, TO 1ST JAN., 1857.

The Physicians respectfully report as follows :

The whole number of patients to the present date, two months and eleven days from the establishment of the charity, has been 297, of whom there have been from

Roxbury.....	117
West Roxbury.....	1
Boston.....	156
South Boston.....	6
Dorchester.....	8
Quincy.....	2
Milton.....	3
Jamaica Plain.....	2
Brookline.....	1
Cambridge.....	1

There have been

122 males, 175 females
195 adults and 102 infants and children ;
41 surgical cases, and
256 medical.

A large number of the cases, over one-third, have been cured. Most of the others are still under treatment.—There have been seven deaths ; one from consumption, and six from scarlet fever.

As had been expected, a majority of the patients were from Boston, notwithstanding the dispensary and hospital aid already provided for the poor in that city. This number, and the almost equal one from Roxbury, in which also there had previously existed a similar charity, conclusively prove that the need of your institution has been really felt by these communities.

Very many cases, from their severity and the impossibility of properly attending patients at their houses, have already imperatively demanded the shelter of a hospital.

Laws of Digestion.—Some curious physiological experiments are represented to be in progress in Philadelphia, by Drs. Walton and Scholes, in regard to the powers of digestion, and dogs, apprehended by police determinations, are represented to be the subjects of experiment. After killing them, the stomach is removed, and the work of digestion noted, as well as the time employed in the interesting operation. Experiments were also made to ascertain the effects of strychnine, and chloroform as an antidote. One dog, just as he was, to all appearances, in the last agonies of death from the effects of the poison, had chloroform administered to him, and in a few minutes he entirely recovered, and ran about as if nothing had been given him. He was afterwards killed by a second dose of poison. Professor S. Jackson was present.

Veterinary Anatomical Plates.—Dr. Dadd, editor of the Veterinary Journal, has in course of preparation a series of anatomical plates, descriptive of the organized structures of the Horse. They will be executed in elegant style, by artists of acknowledged skill.

Age and Memory.—Mrs. Abigail Rudd died in Bozrah, Conn., on Tuesday of last week. She was in the 100th year of her age, and probably the oldest person in the county, if not in the State. Her maiden name was Abigail Allen, and she was married in 1780. She was born in Montville. Up till within a few weeks of her death she has always been the sole housekeeper of her son, who manages a large farm. She drew a pension in consequence of the revolutionary services of her husband, who has been dead many years. She was remarkable for her great memory. Is it but a few years since she would repeat verbatim Milton's Paradise Lost. The Bible she would repeat perfectly. She would give a history of our country, especially the days of the Revolution. She retained her faculties until the last, and often said that she was ready and prepared to go when the summons came.

Thomas Brown, a colored man, recently died at Pittsfield, Mass., at the age of one hundred years.

Gastric Juice of a Dog.—According to Lehman, the amount of gastric fluid secreted by a dog in 24 hours, equals one-tenth the weight of the whole body. 100 grs. of recent gastric juice are capable of dissolving from three to five grains of coagulated albumen. A dog needs daily, for the perfect maintenance of all the physiological functions, 50 grains of flesh containing 10 grains of albuminates, for every 1,000 grains of its weight. It secretes, however, only 100 grains of gastric juice for every 1,000 grs. of its weight,---only one half the amount capable of dissolving the albuminates of the flesh. Hence, a large portion of the protein bodies must pass out of the stomach undigested.

Opposed to Civilization.—There is a farmer in Bethany, Conn., who has not worn a hat, or any covering on his head for twenty years, winter or summer, and who says his head is never cold. During the recent severe weather, he might have been seen working roads through the snow in that town, with thick, warm mittens on his hands, but no covering on his head.

A queer fellow, John Ford, of Auburn, N. Y., has gone barefoot two winters as well summers, without having cold feet. He scorns the effeminacy of the age. In his opinion shoes are an absurdity. A land of liberty this—any one may run mad if he pleases.

Spinal Curvatures. — On whose authority is the following intelligence circulating? That the statement is, true cannot be doubted —

The number of males, compared with the gentler sex, who are sufferers from lateral curvatures of the spine is probably not more than one to three or five hundred. In fact, the average is so small among males, that a comparison can hardly be made; while among females it is estimated that one-fourth of them all show some deviation. When there is not a positive curvature of the spine, there is frequently enlargement of one shoulder, produced by the muscles connected with the scapula being more fully developed than the other. Dressmakers say that this inequality is almost as universal among females in the higher walks of life. In males, too, in a large majority of cases, the convexity of the curve is towards the left side; while the curvature in females is almost always confined to the right side.

Mortality of Boston in 1856. — The whole number of deaths during the year was 4,253, an increase of 175 over the past year. With the exception of scarlatina, which proved exceedingly virulent during the last month of the year, the city has suffered no epidemic. There has not been a death from small-pox since August last. The greatest increase of deaths was in Ward 2, being 72 in number; and the greatest decrease was in Ward 12, the number being 61. The deaths in Ward 2 include those at Rainsford Island. The number of deaths from accidents was 181. The number of deaths from consumption was 760 — an increase of 250 on the previous year.

During the year, 202 bodies of persons deceased in former years, were removed from the various cemeteries in this city for final interment in other places. During the same period 103 bodies of persons dying in other places have been brought into the city for burial.

Old Age in Spain. — A priest of Bilboa, in Spain, having been charged to award a legacy to the oldest and poorest person in the neighboring parish of Arrancadiaze, has made inquiries, from which it appears that the person possessing those qualifications is a woman named Larren, now 107 years old. Notwithstanding this vast age, the woman is represented to be in excellent health. She was born four years after the death of Philip V, and has lived under six Spanish sovereigns, including Queen Isabella.

Parisian Libraries. — Paris at present possesses thirty-five large libraries. Some are public; others only partly so; and the greater number are exclusively devoted to certain establishments. The public libraries are: The Bibliotheque Imperiale, with 1,400,000 printed volumes, about 300,000 pamphlets, and 80,000 manuscripts; the Arsenal, 220,000 volumes and 6000 manuscripts; Sainte Genevieve, 150,000 volumes, 4000 manuscripts; Mazarin, about 120,000 volumes, 5000 manuscripts; the Sorbonne, 80,000 volumes; the City of Paris, 65,000 volumes, 300 manuscripts; the Ecole de Medicine, 40,000 volumes; the Museum of Natural History at the Jardin des Plantes, 35,000 volumes; the Invalids, 30,000 volumes; the Conservatoire des Arts-et-Metiers, 20,000 volumes; and the Conservatoire de Musique, 8,000 volumes.

Moderate Fees. — The Southern Ref. and Review says that a medical man in Germany rarely becomes rich. Unless he receives the patronage of noble families, or accomplishes some signal cures, a thousand dollars a year is a handsome income. The fee for ordinary professional visits is never more than fifty cents, even in the cities, except for the first visit, which is seventy-five, and for a night call, which is double the usual price. The fee for consultation never exceeds two dollars; for cataract, never above twelve dollars; extirpation of the eye, the same; tracheotomy, nine dollars; lithotomy, thirty-five; amputation of thigh, or humerus, twelve; the reduction of dislocations, four; the cæsarean section, fifteen.

Light made by Insects. — The English chemist, Herapath, has been in South America examining the luminous insects. He finds that the common opinion that their light is phosphorescent is incorrect. His opinion is that the light is caused by the burning of a peculiar compound of carbon and hydrogen, formed in a special gland.

Reward for Genius. — The French Academy of Medicine has decreed a grant of 3000 francs to found an annual prize for any discovery or means of cure in diseases hitherto deemed incurable; such as hydrophobia, cancer, epilepsy, typhus, cholera, &c.

Sick Poor. — Fifty thousand patients were medically treated at the union dispensaries in Ireland during the past year, 1856.

Ointment of Iodide of Potash.—Translated by G. W. Fenner.—It is a great evil, that this much used ointment, by whatever process it be made, quickly assumes a characteristic brown color, which, in many cases, is very objectionable. All harmless additions of soap or calcined magnesia, are unable to prevent this. Now, to prevent this changing of the color to brown, I add to the ointment or lard, a few drops of potash lye, and produce, by rubbing them together for a long while, a kind of saponification, the ointment thereby becoming beautifully white and frothy. Even the alkaline action on curcuma test paper is entirely obviated, the liberated fatty acids being completely absorbed. With this ointment I then mix the Iodide of Potash, which is, however, rather difficult, if there be a large proportion of the Iodide to be added. In such cases I mix the Iodide with a little sugar of milk in a mortar, to a very fine powder, and the combination of both can now be easily accomplished. The ointment thus prepared is quite white and frothy, and will keep for many weeks without changing the color, and without decomposing.—*Chem. Gazette.*

Tendency of Tobacco.—Mr. Solly, an eminent writer on the brain, says, in a late clinical lecture on that frightful and formidable malady, softening of the brain, "I would caution you, as students, from excesses in the use of tobacco and smoking, and I would advise you to disabuse your patients' minds of the idea that it is harmless. I have had a large experience of brain disease, and I am satisfied now that smoking is a noxious habit. I know of no other cause or agent that tends so much to bring on functional disease, and, through this, in the end, to lead to organic diseases of the brain, as excessive use of tobacco."

Mechanism of a Horse's Foot.—Dr. Dadd, the veterinary surgeon, says that the elastic tissue packed within each hoof of that useful, beautiful servant of man, is so folded, backward and forward, that the bone resting upon it, through which the weight of the animal is transmitted to the ground, would present a surface of four feet square, were it spread out. Thus the horse is provided with a spring cushion, wedged in a box, and thus he can amble, trot or leap, without injuring the delicate structure of the feet, or receiving a jar, that would be destructive to his limbs, or the complicated viscera within the cavities of the body.

Dr. Livingston.—It may interest our readers to know that this gentleman suffers from ankylosis of the elbow-joint, the result of fracture of the lower end of the humerus by a wounded lion, and that he is about to undergo the operation of forced rupture, in the hope of regaining the use of the joint. This is the celebrated African traveller, whose recent arrival in England has made a great sensation.

Danger from their Bonnets.—The Montreal Gazette says that a young bride and bridegroom were riding in that neighborhood, when the lady was found to have become speechless from the effect of frost on her brain, and she died soon after reaching home. This sad event is attributed to the scanty style of the bonnet she wore.

Matrimonial.—A mother and four daughters, all of whom reside in Northampton, Mass., have, collectively, approached the altar of Hymen seventeen times! The mother has had four husbands, one of her daughters four, and the others three each.

India Rubber Tree.—It is a spontaneous product of Honduras. This tree grows to a very large size, and is dispersed over the whole country. When an incision is made in the bark, a thick, milky fluid gushes out, which, in the course of a week, becomes black and solid.

Remarkable Horse.—There is at the present time to be seen working at Sandbeck, on the estate of the late Earl of Scarborough, a horse of the name of Sharper, who has, during a period of twenty years, travelled the enormous distance of 104,000 miles, or above the distance of four times round the globe.

Vital Statistics.—In the City of Charlestown, Mass., in 1856, the whole number of births returned to the city clerk, for the year 1856, was 743. The whole number of marriages returned for the same time was 220. Whole number of deaths was 572.

Hair and Lightning.—Observation has decided that those who have been killed by lightning, have been persons with a large amount of hair on their heads. Some further researches ought to be instituted before the statement is entitled to a place among reliable facts.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

A wealthy physician of New York is said to have recently executed a will in this manner, having a preference to burning human bodies, instead of burial. He directs that his mortal remains be kept for five days in a warm room; the thorax then to be opened, and the heart extracted, which is to be embalmed and enclosed in a thick vellum bag, strongly impregnated with asphaltum; the remainder of his body is then to be publicly burnt on a pyre of sassafras or sandal wood, in one of the public cemeteries, — the ashes carefully gathered and deposited, with the embalmed heart, in a bronze urn. Five copies of the leading daily city papers, containing an account of the whole proceedings, are likewise directed to be deposited in the urn, which is then to be hermetically sealed and taken to a museum. The directions of the celebrated Dr. Physic, in relation to keeping his body in blankets till decomposition had commenced, is fresh in recollection.

An Odontological Society has been formed in London, with the intention of holding regular sessions, like other scientific associations.

A custom of long standing, at Jeejooree, in India, has been suddenly stopped by the British Government, which was an annual piece of surgery, quite extraordinary in its way. A man ran a sharp sword through the calf of his own leg, — and the blood that escaped was used to sprinkle the entrance to a temple. It appears to have been the privilege of a few favored persons to perform this rite, which they were willing to relinquish for an annual stipend just equal to what they had for slashing their own flesh so painfully. We saw a long, sharp-pointed steel rod forced through the cheeks of five small boys, in a row, at a mosque of Howling Dervishes in Scutari, — so that it projected an inch or two on each side, and wholly prevented them from closing their jaws. They individually declared the operation gave them no pain.

A private meeting of noblemen and gentlemen was lately held at the residence of Lord Shaftsbury, to consider the best plan of honoring Dr. Southwood Smith, the eminent writer. It was finally concluded to have his bust taken by an eminent artist, and then have it presented to some public institution. Dr. Smith's reputation in England is associated with sanitary reforms particularly.

Decimus Hodgson, M. D., of Edinburgh, has written a treatise on the *Prostrate Gland and its enlargement in old age*, illustrated with plates. In his inaugural for a degree, the University of Edinburgh awarded the author a gold medal.

Dr. Steinhauser is now on an exploring expedition from Aden, in search of a certain rumored great inland lake, in company with Capt. Barton, of Mecca celebrity.

The famous scientific exploration projected by Prof. Escayrae, to discover the sources of the Nile, under the patronage of Said Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt, is likely to fall through.

Dr. Percy and Dr. Stauber of Virginia, Dr. Sharpless of Pennsylvania, Dr. Pancoast of Philadelphia, Dr. Hudson of Connecticut, Dr. Slack of New York, Dr. Miller of Providence, R. I., Dr. McPheeters of Virginia, and Dr. Morfit of New York, were presented to the Emperor and Empress of France, at the palace of the Tuilleries, on the 11th of January.

At the last meeting of the Homœopathic Medical Society of New Jersey, it was resolved that application should be made to the Legislature, at the next session, to incorporate the Homœopathic State Medical Society, as a legal body, with full power and privileges to examine applicants, and grant licenses or diplomas to such, to practise Physic and Surgery, in this State, as shall give to the censors of said Society satisfactory proof of their proficiency in the Healing Art.

Dr. Winslow Lewis, of Boston, has been elected Consulting Surgeon of the Massachusetts General Hospital, in place of the late distinguished John C. Warren. He should have been a surgeon in the institution twenty years ago.

American physicians are quite numerous this winter in Italy.

Charpie, (*lint*) soaked in Perchloride of Iron, applied to bleeding vessels, stops the hemorrhage almost instantly. Even small arteries, necessarily divided in operations, may be almost instantly secured with a dorsel of it, pressed over the bleeding end of the vessel. The discovery is of immense value to the fearless progress of operative surgery.

In cases of uterine hemorrhages, when the danger is imminent, the bleeding may be quickly arrested, according to Dr. Bicknell, by the introduction of a lump of ice within the os, and in a moment withdrawn. Here at the East it is common to apply ice to the abdomen, under similar circumstances.

William Warren Green, M. D., of North Waterford, Maine, has communicated an instructive paper to the *Peninsular Journal of Medicine*.

No. 22 of Dr. Tully's *Pharmacology* has been received. His poems are admirably written. The subscription list numbers eleven hundred for the work. "Our undertaking," says the publisher, "has proved far more arduous and perplexing than was anticipated." Don't be discouraged: experience dearly bought, may prove a good investment in the end.

In the numerous accounts of the presentation of plate as a recognition of eminent services, of late, one physician in the United States is mentioned as having been complimented in the fashionable manner, and that was Dr. Jackson, of Glenhaven. It was the gift of his patients, through A. Sherwood, Esq., of the firm of Douglass & Sherwood, Broadway, New York.

According to *Chambers' Journal*, "there are scores of men throughout England, with families, palsied from head to foot, and constitutions irremediably shattered from inhaling the mercurial fumes incident to the gilding and looking-glass trades.

A surgeon of York, England, recently tried for forging the name of a brother surgeon to a promissory note of fifty pounds, was acquitted, as the jury believed that surgeon Orgon had no intention of fraud.

William Darling, M. D., a clever young American surgeon, has been admitted as a member of the London Royal Medical College of Surgeons. Dr. Darling lectured on anatomy in the medical school attached to the University of New York, and was also an assistant surgeon on Ward's Island and at the Marine Hospital.

A new remedy for cancer, credited to the *Virginia Medical Journal*, is going the professional rounds,—which is made of three parts of sulphate of lime, one of chloride of zinc, and one of chloride of antimony,—and may prove of great value.

Henry W. Rumsey, M. D., of Chiltenham, England, has written a volume on *State Medicine*. It is a book of six essays, which refers mainly to what has been and should be done by Government for the public health, in great cities and towns. Medical care of the poor; medical coroners instead of the disgraceful appointment of sap-heads, who have not an elementary idea of the anatomy of a human being, are prominent topics.

Dr. Walter Channing, formerly a professor at the Medical College, lectured before the Ladies' Physiological Institute, last, in Boston.

Dr. Reese, editor of the *American Medical Gazette*, published in New York, says—Dr. Mattson's Family Syringes have become an institution among us, and though so recently introduced, have already obtained the preference over any and every other form of this useful instrument, all over the country. No physician will do without them after having found their simplicity, convenience, and utility, and every family will find it handy to keep one in the house. They are little liable to be out of order, with ordinary care; and will last a long while by replacing the valves, which accompany each instrument, and ample directions are enclosed for their use and repair.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 18, 1857.

EXCESS OF FEMALE POPULATION.—By notices that have appeared occasionally, it seems that in the old towns and cities on the Atlantic coast, the females very considerably outnumber the other sex. Thus in the city of Boston there was recently represented to be an excess of some thousand females. In the State, the excess is doubtless very considerable. South and East, the census discloses a lamentable circumstance, that the males, by their migratory propensity, wander off at sea in one direction, and to the vast prairie regions of the West in another, leaving their sisters in the majority at home.

Two circumstances contribute to produce this-to-be deplored result. Young men are not disposed to venture in matrimony, on account of the cost. With small incomes, at best, and dependent more frequently than otherwise, upon their personal industry, when all the necessaries of life are excessively dear, they are discouraged. Young women, in cities, are ambitious for making an appearance in the world, in a way it is not always in the power of a young man to gratify. In that middle sphere of life where marriages are most common in prosperous times, they are now the fewest; and where the parties do enter upon the responsibilities of the marital relations, too much regard is paid to pecuniary circumstances on one side or the other. Still higher up on the social scale, matrimony is unblushingly admitted to be reduced to a regular department of trade, in which estates are lost and won.

Some systematic efforts should be commenced to equalize the population of the sexes in the new settlements. Towns are constantly springing into ex-

istence on all the great rivers, lakes and railroads, far away, where the star of empire moves, in which there are scarcely females enough to keep the men from degenerating first to roughness, rudeness and a tendency to semi barbarism.

Philanthropists are the proper managers for conducting such enterprises. Certain it is that some one should propose a scheme for assisting young women to remove from the crowded sewing establishments, binderies, printing offices, and indeed, from wherever they may wish to escape, to more suitable fields for the exercise of their poorly paid industry, where their influence would be appreciated and their prospects brightened.

A primitive condition of society is invariably favorable to marriage; while the dense population of a city is quite unfavorable for the masses. Those who have any forethought, shrink from the idea of bringing a family up in poverty, or burdening themselves voluntarily, while they find it difficult to provide for themselves.

This excess of female population is to be deplored on account of the deprivation which the vigorous sections of the West suffer, from not having more of an equalization of the sexes, which is strictly in accordance with those natural laws on which the well-being of a race depends.

No exact statements from the census returns have been collected, because the picture might appear too highly colored, were the exact number of females in the principal cities of the United States, placed in a column opposite that of the males. If it did not rouse them to take the government of the country into their own hands, on discovering their immense numerical strength, it might frighten those who are disposed to be bound with hymenial cords, from contending against an army, every individual of which, favorably circumstanced, could gain a victory alone.

Bills of mortality show what melancholy inroads are made by disease on female life, in the very beginning of their days in cities. They require the fresh air, the green grass, the shady trees, domestic associations, which augment human happiness, and promote health, longevity and the moral welfare of all conditions of society.

SPECIALTIES.—Notwithstanding the vituperative censures cast by an occasional remnant of the past medical age, against those who practise one branch exclusively, as oculists, &c., they succeed admirably; and those who pay for professional services, sustain them. The opinion is universal, that the man who gives his exclusive attention to any particular department of his profession, must be a greater proficient in it than one who is pursuing a mixed practice,—splintering a bone to-day, extracting a tooth to-morrow, and prescribing in a fever the next. Specialties are on the increase, and they will hereafter become more numerous.

CALOMEL AS A CATHARTIC.—A prejudice has been extensively propagated against the internal use of this favorite article of the modern *materia medica*. It exists, however, more particularly amongst the masses. Empirics have made the administration of mercury the subject of their never-ending maledictions against those physicians who are supposed to use it in their practice. There are no terms sufficiently strong to express the vindictive horror they would fain make the people within their circle of influence entertain towards the dreadful consequences that must ensue from its administration, in any form or under any circumstances. Out of this popular alarm and perpetual clamor, half a dozen *reform systems of practice*, as they are familiarly called, have grown up, under the various names of their originators. That most nonsensical of all the latest inventions for curing invalids, by a kind of steam machinery,—the medicated baths—assumes to take mercury in a tangible metallic condition, out through the skin of those who perhaps never had any in them.

By referring to the 111th page of Trotter's View of the Nervous Temperament, it will be seen that the author has written with an iron pen—to illustrate the immense amount of mischief that positively follows from taking calomel as a cathartic, which is a favorite with most practitioners, either alone or combined with other drugs.

Thomas Trotter, M. D., was a member of all the principal medical societies of Europe—into whose fellowship he could have been received with eclat, had he not been distinguished professionally. He was physician of the fleet under Admiral Home. The work from which the annexed extract is taken, was published in 1806, and dedicated to the late celebrated James Gregory, a professor in the University of Edinburgh. Thus fortified in the way of respectability, which greatly influences the public mind, hear him: "Calomel is a favorite article with some physicians, as a purgative; and from the minuteness of its dose, very desirable to the patient. It also operates quickly and briskly, which, with nervous and dyspeptic subjects, is a matter of great satisfaction; but mercury is the most dangerous of all the frequent purges. It sooner exhausts the irritability and vital powers of the intestines, than any other metallic oxide, except arsenic. It never fails in the end to add to the disease; it is peculiarly contra-indicated in the nervous temperament; and its action on the bowels very much resembles a state of dysentery, by producing the most violent gripes and tenesmus. It thus frequently brings on prolapsus ani, a complaint to which bowels are liable, and especially women who have experienced hard labors and borne a number of children. I firmly believe all the derangements which it occasions in the body, are small when compared with the injury to the nervous system and digestive powers. It has often been my lot to witness the practice of others,—for of fifty thousand cases of the venereal disease which have attended, I am convinced that not one of them ever

required this acrid mercurial. Hæmoptysis, ending in phthisis, was a frequent sequel to this treatment."

Empirical gentlemen are not without authority, therefore, in extenuation of their fulminating bulls against mercury, even including that elegant offician preparation—the blue pill.

POPULAR PHYSIOLOGY.—Such is the common desire to understand the laws which regulate our being, that medical gentlemen, admirably qualified for making difficult problems plain, have written treatises expressly for instructing non-professional readers in the mysteries of animal organization.

Dr. Hayward, of Boston, an eminent surgeon among other contributions to the Commonwealth of useful knowledge, some years ago prepared *OUTLINES OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY designed for the higher classes in common schools*. Although sent to press in 1832, no discoveries have since been made that lessens the intrinsic value of the work. How extensively it was adopted in those institutions for which it was designed, of course is unknown to us. It should be where it is not, and more heed given to its important teachings where it is.

Earlier still in the field, J. L. Comstock, M. D., of Connecticut, the very embodiment of professional industry, in 1836, published *OUTLINES OF PHYSIOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE AND HUMAN ANATOMY, intended for schools and heads of families*, which abounds with lessons of instruction. There is a peculiar fascination in this unpretending little volume, which the author has the tact for infusing into his writings beyond ordinary compilers. Whenever a fact could be found in connection with the subject before him, he availed himself of it and gave to it an orderly direction.

HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY for Schools, by Charles A. Lee, M. D., was equal to any similar undertaking extant.

PRACTICAL PHYSIOLOGY for the use of Schools and families, by Edward Jarvis, M. D., of Dorchester, near Boston, first published in 1847, is about as nearly perfect as such a book can be. He omitted nothing essential, illustrative of the economy of life; nor did Dr. Jarvis either trench upon forbidden ground or intimate the existence of any such territory. What patronage it received, has not transpired.

A fair experiment has been tried, of affording that peculiar intellectual aliment which the progress of popular education demanded. These authors are selected, for their prominence and elevated culture, and whose names would give tone and character to a new branch of study, if names were required. We are solicitous to ascertain if sufficient attention is now given to general physiology by public teachers; or has the enthusiasm that was rife at one period, subsided into indifference? And furthur, could either of the above works be remodeled so as to render them specifically better and easier to be understood by pupils in the public schools?

BRONCHOTOMY ON A HORSE.—Among other contributions to the public papers, in the way of medical opinions respecting croup and its fatality, some one expresses a belief that Col. Preston Brooks died not of croup, but from a spasm of epiglottis, which fell upon its own orifice, and suffocation ensued. He says that the remedy is, for the patient to place his thumb on the right side of the trachea, or windpipe, and his finger on the other side, a small inch below the angle of the jaw, squeeze it tightly, and push directly upwards towards the tongue; and the motion, with the pressure of the muscles, will immediately raise the valve to its perpendicular position, and breathing is restored; hold it a few minutes till the valve recovers its tone, and the patient will be out of danger.

This singularly approaches what is vulgarly called *throttling*, and is by no means an operation of such magical safety as represented.

It is far better to have an incision made into the windpipe which is a very slight affair, unattended by loss of blood or pain. With this resource of surgery, so simple, easy of execution, and satisfactory in its results, it is one of the wonders of the day, while scores of beautiful children are strangling with croup, that bronchotomy is not as common as other treatment, and always when a case assumes a threatening aspect.

Horses suffer from the same disease, but their immediate relief is not always from topical applications. The moment the symptoms become urgent, with the point of a keen instrument,—an incision being made through the superficial integuments, a circular piece, as large as a dime, is quickly cut out of the trachea, which gives the half-suffocated animal instantaneous relief. The orifice is at the expense of portions of two rings of the air-duct to the lungs. A tube is then secured in the opening, by a strap round the neck, and at once all the active disturbance which agitated the system a moment before, subsides, and the horse is saved. A dense tissue soon fills up the excised space, and neither soreness nor difficulty attends deglutition.

Boston is favored by having two skilful veterinary surgeons, George H. Dadd and C. M. Wood, whose pathological knowledge and familiar acquaintance with the minute anatomy of the useful domestic animals, is in the highest degree creditable to themselves as medical scholars, and important to a community in which their scientific services are appreciated.

Dr. Charles Harris, a highly respectable citizen of Catawba, N. C., on Monday night, 19th ult., left home for the purpose of going to Concord, and lost his way in the woods. On arriving at a small branch he dismounted from his horse in order to discover the road, and in crossing the branch he stepped upon the ice, which yielded under his weight and plunged him in the water. His horse in the meantime ran off. After he had gotten out of the water, being thoroughly chilled and benumbed with cold and his clothes frozen, he dragged himself to the brow of the hill, where he fell and perished in the snow.

WHITE PAPER AND WEAK EYES.—Those who are habitually writing, particularly in the evening, are familiar with the fact that the eyes suffer considerably from looking down on a white sheet of paper, hour after hour. It is not uncommon to have slight inflammations, together with an apparent haziness of the room, when the sitting has been a long one,

A wise suggestion was circulating awhile since, that all writing paper, whether for correspondence, commercial entry-books, ledgers, or that used by editors and authors generally, should have a blue tinge, because it would so much favor vision. It was a philosophical intimation, and were those who are constantly at work with the pen, careful to procure paper that is not a dead white, they would avoid the contingencies that await them by writing on a light, reflecting surface.

Even a slight shade of blue, which is the most agreeable to the eye, is a sufficient relief to be very perceptible. A clear white paper reflects all the rays, back upon the retina, which is in that way made irritable,—and the visual power is consequently diminished. On the other hand, the introduction of blue or green, or indeed any dark coloring material, modifies the surface, as then certain rays are absorbed, instead of being sent, by reflection, into the interior of the organ.

The eyes are too precious to be neglected. If any one who happens to fall upon these observations, is suffering from any form of discomfiture as the result of over-taxing his visual apparatus, will take care hereafter to write on paper that is softened by a darkish shading, in the manufacture, the relief will be apparent.

Were a long dissertation given upon the whys and wherefores very many have impaired their vision, beyond recovery, it would not be read; but as this statement embraces all that is necessary to be observed to preserve the eyes, we hope the hint may be observed.

COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.—It is a fascinating study, and yet how few pursue investigations in that vast field of wonders. There is not an organized being, from a monad to man, which does not excite the astonishment of the profoundest anatomist. Those intricate combinations of flexible tubes, muscles, telegraphic cords, nerves of sensation, consciousness, powers of volition, and provision both for sustaining the life of the individual, and reproducing its like in form, mechanism and appetency, while the globe lasts, furnish ample materials for an anatomical philosopher to examine and study to the end of his days, without exhausting the interest the subject naturally inspires.

A more decided prospect of scientific distinction was never presented than at this moment, for any one who has an ambition for a name or a place. Here and there, in the United States, some person is incidentally spoken of as a comparative anatomist. But the number is too small, compared with the geographical dimen-

sions and resources of the country. What native celebrated author on this branch of knowledge, stands forth as authority? There are naturalists, indefatigable and learned, mostly hailing from the medical profession. Anatomical teachers and demonstrators, well qualified for the responsibilities resting upon them, abound; but what startling discoveries have been made, or what problems solved in regard to the mechanism of humanity? In the too much neglected regions of comparative anatomy, there is something to find; new things to see, and laws to unfold.

Because many find an apology for their apathy and inactivity, on the plea that the ground has been repeatedly gleaned, the opportunity for shining brilliantly is enhanced in value. If these arguments should influence some persevering gentleman to bring all his strength to bear on this neglected department of study, he would find himself celebrated just as soon as he is qualified for that honor. S

ERROR CORRECTED.—Dr. Taylor is made to say—in the Scientific testimony, published last week, that a minimum poisonous dose of Strychnine could be discovered by analysis, which should read, could *not be discovered*.

MARRIAGES.

L. R. Livingston, Esq., to Miss A., daughter of Dr. Joseph Eaton, of the U. S. Army.

In Dublin, Ireland, Robert Ormsby, to Miss A. R. Ormsby.

In New York, Mr. Clinton Wiley, to Miss M. A., daughter of Dr. John J. Bush, of Missouri.

T. Joiner White, M. D. of Brooklyn, N. Y., to Miss E. Gloucester.

In Huntington, Mass., John H. Gilbert, M. D., to Miss J. Copeland.

At Wardsworth, Eng., Dr. Augustus W. Hofman, F. R. S., to Miss R. M. Wilson.

Dr. Grenville S. Stephens, of Providence, R. I., to Miss H. W. Smith.

DEATHS.

At Bailinasloe, Ireland, Frederick Thornton, M. D. In Boston, a son of Wm. T. Dale, M. D.

In Malden, Mass., Mrs. Mary E., and Seth S., wife and son of John L. Sullivan, M. D.

In Dorchester, Mass., Mrs. Nancy, wife of the late Dr. Bell, of Dorchester, Mass.—58.

At Upper Gilmanton, N. H., Dr. E. F. Hurd—35.

In Wilmington, Mass., Mrs. A. W., wife of Silas Brown, M. D.

At Falmouth, Maine, Dr. Josiah Batchelder, formerly of Beverly, Mass., 82.

In New York, Mrs. Anna M., wife of Dr. F. P. Bailey.

In Portland, Maine, Dr. Asa Graham, 59. He was injured some time since by falling from a building, which produced a paralysis of the lower extremities, from which he suffered severely.

At Sligo, Ireland, Mrs. Eleanor, wife of the late Dr. William Armstrong, in her 100th year.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

FEBRUARY 25, 1857.

NUMBER 22.

PRESERVATION OF HUMAN BODIES.

No people have succeeded so well as the ancient Egyptians in preserving the bodies of their friends and relatives from decomposition. We have been at the vast necropolis of Sakkara, and watched the process of dragging up the mummies from the deep pits in which they had rested for at least three thousand if not four thousand years. The restless Bedouin Arabs have been carrying on the revolting occupation of rifling those deep, capacious vaults in which many hundred bodies were artistically packed, several centuries, for the sake of the jewelry, shoes, caps and specimens of ancient arts that are thus brought to light; and although the business is still actively pursued, it is hardly probable that there will be any apparent diminution of mummies a thousand years hence.

This merely demonstrates the denseness of the Nilotic population through a long series of Pharonic ages, but also the universal custom of embalming all the dead. Indeed, the same care bestowed in the mummification of human beings in Egypt, whether from religious or hygienic views, was also extended to dogs, cats, birds, crocodiles, &c., so that countless millions will not overexpress the number still remaining in the most perfect state of preservation, a proof of all that might be collected on this curious and interesting subject.

A strong desire was evinced both in France and England, to prevent the decay of their early sovereigns, but their efforts, based upon no scientific principles, were very imperfect, so that it was quite rare to find a well-preserved body in any of the royal vaults in Europe. Generally they are in deep, damp places, under floors, or beneath low, massive arches, where no rays of sun-light ever appear, to dissipate the sweating moisture that corrupts whatever is placed within the gloomy resting-places of kings and potentates.

The royal vaults in which the whole line of electors, emperors, empresses and the families of the rulers of the Austrian empire are placed for the sleep of death, are dry, tolerably light and admirably ventilated. What the condition of the bodies may be in their costly sarcophagic and metallic coffins is of course unknown, as no mention is extant of any explorations for ascertaining.

The sarcophagus in which the august remains of Maria Theresa were laid—which was constructed under her own eye, at an enormous cost, is a massive metallic structure occupying as much space on the floor as a large-sized bedstead. It is about five feet high, having magnificent metallic statuary at the corners, with curiously draped and winged figures as accompaniments. The Duke of Reichstadt, the son of Napoleon le Grand, is in a plain, unadorned metallic coffin, resting on a stool at the side of the wall. It has a dull metallic appearance, like tarnished iron. Possibly it may be zinc.

The Empress Louisa Maria, the second wife of Napoleon, the mother of Reichstadt, who died reigning Duchess of Parma, is in a similar looking coffin, placed in a like position, a few feet from her son.

But of all the modern final reposing places of royalty we have personally examined, those of the Sultans of Turkey are the most gorgeous and extraordinary in all respects. It would require a more severe examination of packed-away manuscripts, written over the mouldering remains of those ferocious monsters,—from Mahomet the Second to Mahmoud the Second, the father of the present Pedisha, Abdel Mejid, than we care to undertake, for particulars, and thus we close these hasty observations by showing the condition of some of the kings of England during eventful historical periods.

The English evidently desired to so protect the bodies of their early and later kings that they should resist the chemical tendency to decomposition. They partially succeeded in a

few instances, only, as will be noticed in the following collection of facts.

King Edward I. died in July, 1307, and notwithstanding his injunctions, was buried in Westminster Abbey in October of the same year. It is recorded that he was embalmed, and orders for renewing the cere-cloth about his body were issued in the reigns of Edward III. and Henry IV. The tomb of this monarch was opened, and his body examined in January, 1774, under the direction of Sir Joseph Ayliffe, after it had been buried four hundred and sixty-seven years. The following account is extracted from a contemporaneous volume of the Gentleman's Magazine.

"Some gentlemen of the Society of Antiquaries, being desirous to see how far the actual state of Edward First's body answered to the methods taken to preserve it, obtained leave to open the large stone sarcophagus, in which it is known to have been deposited, on the north side of Edward the Confessor's chapel. This was accordingly done on the morning of January 2, 1774, when in a coffin of yellow stone they found the royal body in perfect preservation, inclosed in two wrappers; one of them was of gold tissue, strongly waxed, and fresh, the other and outermost considerably decayed. The corpse was habited in a rich mantle of purple, paned with white, and adorned with ornaments of gilt metal, studded with red and blue stones and pearls. Two similar ornaments lay on the hands. The mantle was fastened on the right shoulder by a magnificent *fibula* of the same metal, with the same stones and pearls. His face had over it a silken covering, so fine, and so closely fitted to it, as to preserve the features entire. Round his temples was a gilt coronet of fleurs de lys. In his hands, which were also entire, were two sceptres of gilt metal; that in the right surmounted by a cross fleure, that in the left by three clusters of oak leaves, and a dove on a globe; this sceptre was about five feet long. The feet were enveloped in the mantle and other coverings, but sound, and the toes distinct. The whole length of the corpse was five feet two inches."

Edward I. died at Burgh-upon-Sands, in Cumberland, on his way to Scotland, July 7, 1307, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

Another instance of partial preservation, is that of the body of King Charles I., who was beheaded by his subjects in 1649. The remains of this unfortunate monarch are known to have been carried to Windsor, and there interred by his friends without pomp, in a hasty

and private manner. It is stated in Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, that when his son, Charles II., was desirous to remove and re-inter his corpse at Westminster Abbey, it could not by any search be found. In constructing a mausoleum at Windsor in 1813, under the direction of George IV., then Prince Regent, an accident led to the discovery of this royal body. The workmen, in forming a subterraneous passage under the choir of St. George's Chapel, accidentally made an aperture in the wall of the vault of King Henry VIII. On looking through this opening it was found to contain three coffins, instead of two, as had been supposed. Two of these were ascertained to be the coffins of Henry VIII. and of one of his queens, Jane Seymour. The other was formally examined, after permission obtained, by Sir Henry Halford, in presence of several members of the royal family, and other persons of distinction. The account since published by Sir Henry, corroborates the one which had been given by Mr. Herbert, a groom of King Charles's bedchamber, and is published in Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*.

"On removing the pall," (says the account,) "a plain leaden coffin presented itself to view, with no appearance of ever having been inclosed in wood, and bearing an inscription, 'King Charles, 1648,' in large, legible characters, on a scroll of lead encircling it. A square opening was then made in the upper part of the lid, of such dimensions as to admit a clear insight into its contents. These were, an internal wooden coffin, very much decayed, and the body carefully wrapped up in cere-cloth, into the folds of which a quantity of unctuous matter, mixed with resin, as it seemed, had been melted, so as to exclude, as effectually as possible, the external air. The coffin was completely full, and, from the tenacity of the cere-cloth, great difficulty was experienced in detaching it successfully from the parts which it enveloped. Wherever the unctuous matter had insinuated itself, the separation of the cere-cloth was easy; and where it came off, a correct impression of the features to which it had been applied, was observed. At length the whole face was disengaged from its covering. The complexion of the skin of it was dark and discolored. The forehead and temples had lost little or nothing of their muscular substance; the cartilage of the nose was gone; but the left eye, in the first moment of exposure, was open and full, though it vanished almost immediately; and the pointed beard, so characteristic of the period of the reign of King

Charles, was perfect. The shape of the face was a long oval; many of the teeth remained; and the left ear, in consequence of the interposition of the unctuous matter between it and the cere-cloth, was found entire.

"It was difficult, at this moment, to withhold a declaration that, notwithstanding its disfigurement, the countenance did bear a strong resemblance to the coins, the busts, and especially to the picture of King Charles the First, by Vandyke, by which it had been made familiar to us. It is true that the minds of the spectators of this interesting sight were well prepared to receive this impression; but it is also certain that such a facility of belief had been occasioned by the simplicity and truth of Mr. Herbert's Narrative, every part of which had been confirmed by the investigation, so far as it had advanced; and it will not be denied that the shape of the face, the forehead, the eye, and the beard, are the most important features by which resemblance is determined.

"When the head had been entirely disengaged from the attachments which confined it, it was found to be loose, and without any difficulty was taken out and held up to view. The back part of the scalp was entirely perfect, and had a remarkably fresh appearance; the pores of the skin being more distinct, and the tendons and ligaments of the neck were of considerable substance and firmness. The hair was thick at the back part of the head, and in appearance nearly black. A portion of it, which has since been cleaned and dried, is of a beautiful dark brown color. That of the beard was a redder brown. On the back part of the head it was not more than an inch in length, and had probably been cut so short for the convenience of the executioner, or perhaps by the piety of friends soon after death, in order to furnish memorials of the unhappy king.

"On holding up the head, to examine the place of separation from the body, the muscles of the neck had evidently retracted themselves considerably; and the fourth cervical vertebra was found to be cut through its substance transversely, leaving the surfaces of the divided portions perfectly smooth and even, an appearance which could have been produced only by a heavy blow, inflicted with a very sharp instrument, and which furnished the last proof wanting to identify King Charles the First."

The foregoing are two of the most successful instances of posthumous preservation. The care taken in regard to some other distinguished personages has been less fortunate in its result. The coffin of Henry VIII. was in-

spected at the same with that of Charles, and was found to contain nothing but the mere skeleton of that king. Some portions of beard remained on the chin, but there was nothing to discriminate the personage contained in it.

During the present century, the sarcophagus of King John has also been examined. It contained little else than a disorganized mass of earth. The principal substances found, were some half decayed bones, a few vestiges of cloth and leather, and a long rusty piece of iron, apparently the remains of the sword-blade of that monarch.

DEATHS OF MASSACHUSETTS PHYSICIANS.

In 1856, quite a number of the medical profession were gathered to their fathers. A catalogue of them will probably be given at the annual meeting of the State Society, with a short memoir of some of them, in the annual published transactions. Among the number were several prominent practitioners in the western parts of the Commonwealth. The annexed necrological sketches of Drs. Bassett, Perkins, White and Worthington, are too short, because there might have been gathered ample materials for interesting memoirs.

Dr. Joseph M. Bassett, of Egremont, died Feb. 1, 1856, aged thirty-two, of malignant scarlatina. He studied medicine at Winstead, Conn., in the year 1847. In 1850 he commenced practice in North Egremont. Dr. Bassett, I think, was not a member of this Medical Society, nor in his practice what is termed "regular." His death was sudden, and in just one week after occurred the death of his only little boy, of the same malady. He left a wife, and had buried three children.

Dr. John P. Perkins, of Great Barrington, died in Joliett, Ill., of Typhoid Fever, June 17th, 1856, aged thirty-six. He was prosecuting a journey through the western country, and on arriving among friends in Illinois, was seized with fever, upon which, when near its crisis, erysipelas supervened. He predicted a fatal termination to his sickness, but a cherished faith in the Divine Redeemer removed the fear of death. Dr. Perkins was a native of Blanford. In 1834 his father and family removed to Southwick, where he remained until 1840, when, commencing study, he succeeded, by his own unaided efforts, in obtaining a medical education. About this time he made a profession of religion in connection

with the Congregational Church in Southwick. His medical studies were pursued with Dr. Humphrey of Southwick, at the Medical Institute at Albany, and completed at Boston, where he received his degree in the winter of 1845. In the following May he commenced practise in New Marlborough, (Southfield,) and continued in the town, doing business in the south and north parishes, till the summer of 1854, when he removed to Great Barrington. Here he was from the first, decidedly prosperous. His medical brethren in the town received him very kindly, and his business increased from month to month in extent and value. He early transferred his relation to the First Congregational Church, and took a decided and praiseworthy position as a Christian. He was in every sense of the word a good man; constant, candid, honest, *reliable*; a firm friend of his pastor, and full of benevolence and charity towards all men. I have been with him often in the sick-room, and can testify that every movement and bearing of the man was just that which would commend him to the esteem and affection of families. He sympathized deeply with the afflicted and sorrowing, and loved not only to alleviate the pains of the body, but to be of service to the higher nature—the spirit, that but passes onward when “the golden bowl is broken at the fountain, and the wheel is broken at the cistern.” He left a wife—no children.

Dr. Vassal White, of Stockbridge, (Curtisville,) died July 27th, 1856, aged fifty-four, of Pleuropneumonia, resulting in effusion of the chest. He entered his name as a medical student after pursuing a preparatory course of study with great diligence, in the town of Greenbush, N. Y., in 1816. He afterwards studied in Burlington, Vt., and in 1819 attended a course of lectures in Fairfield. During his last lecture term in 1820, by too close application, he brought on an affection of the heart, from which his life was for some time despaired of. Two years after, having recovered sufficient health to ride, he commenced practice in the town of Washington, where he continued until 1829, when at the request of the inhabitants of Becket, he removed to that town, and remained until 1837, when he removed to Stockbridge. Here he pursued the labors of his profession until about three weeks before his death. His health was never good from the period of his alarming attack while a student in 1820. It was often with great difficulty and peril that he performed the duties of his profession, while he was entirely prevented

from taking that stand in public life for which his abilities amply fitted him. As evidence of the estimation in which Dr. White was held by medical brethren, I learn that for a season he was called to the presidency of this Medical Society.

Dr. Robert Worthington, of Lenox, died August 3, 1856, of Consumption, aged seventy. He was well known as a physician, having long resided in this county. But not only in the walks of professional life, but in the toilsome, but honorable and useful walks of Christian benevolence. Dr. Worthington was very generally known and sincerely esteemed. He was a member of the Congregational Church in Lenox, and one of those brethren on whom much responsibility is imposed and sustained with ability and constancy. He was for many years Treasurer of the Berkshire Bible Society, and by that Society made a Life Director in the American Bible Society. He was Secretary of the County Seamen's Friend Society, and an earnest friend of every measure of popular reform. His Christian faith was vital, energetic, active, and hence we must believe the true faith that works by love. He was a man whose loss will be long felt, and his memory cherished with honor. Dr. Worthington had buried two wives and two children, leaving one surviving daughter, now residing in New York.

MEDICAL QUESTIONS.

CIRCULAR.—*To Physicians*: Will you be pleased at your earliest convenience to answer the following questions, or any of them, *at length*, if your time permits. Due credit will be given in the respective reports to any gentleman, who may communicate valuable facts:

1. Are you engaged in the practice of obstetrics, and how long?

2. Have you kept a registry of births, or can you, to some extent from memory, state the number of preternatural presentations that occurred in your practice? Their proportion to natural ones? The mode of treatment? Success in regard to mother and child?

3. Have you employed the cephalic version? How often and with what success?

4. Have you employed Ergot in difficult labor? With what result to mother and child? Is there, in your opinion, a greater proportion of still-born children where it is employed?

5. Have you seen cases of Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Convulsions, Puerperal Mania,

Phlegmasia Dolens, Trismus Nascentium, etc. ? What were their causes, prodromes, symptoms, treatment and results ?

6. How many regular, how many ireegular, how many female practitioners are there in your district ; how is the practice distributed among these three classes ?

7. Are you cognizant of any gross mal-praxis, or of cases involving Medico-legal investigation in Midwifery ?

8. Remarkable cases, particularly involving new modes of practice ?

9. What are the fees in obstetric cases ?

10. Have you observed any marked results of the mental operation of the mother on the physical organization of the child ?

11. Are there any mineral springs in your neighborhood ? What mineral do they contain ? Have they successfully, or otherwise, been employed in the cure of disease ?

12. Have you employed the microscope on pathological researches and for the purpose of making diagnosis ? What form, whose make, with what results ?

Permit me, sir, to solicit your early attention to the above queries, and to subscribe myself,

Yours fraternally,

JOHN G. F. HOLSTON,

Chairman Committee on Obstetrics, Member of Committee on Microscopy and Mineral Waters.

Zanesville, October 1, 1856.

POSITION IN SLEEPING.

It is better to go to sleep on the right side, for then the stomach is very much in the position of a bottle turned upside down, and the contents are aided in passing out by gravitation. If one goes to sleep on the left side, the operation of emptying the stomach of its contents is more like drawing water from a well. After going to sleep, let the body take its own position. If you sleep on your back, especially soon after a hearty meal, the weight of the digestive organs, and that of the food, resting on the great vein of the body, near the back bone, compresses it, and arrests the flow of the blood more or less. If the arrest is partial, the sleep is disturbed, and there are unpleasant dreams. If the meal has been recent or hearty, the arrest is more decided, and the various sensations, such as falling over a precipice, or the pursuit of a wild beast, or

other impending danger, and the desperate effort to get rid of it, arouses us ; that sends on the stagnating blood, and we wake in a fright, or trembling, or perspiration, or feeling of exhaustion, according to the degree of stagnation, and the length and strength of the effort made to escape the danger. But when we are not able to escape the danger, when we do fall over the precipice, when the tumbling building crushes us, what then ? *That is Death !* That is the death of those of whom it is said, when found lifeless in their beds in the morning, " They were as well as they ever were, the day before ;" and often is it added, " and *ate heart-tiert han common !*" This last, as a frequent cause of death to these who have gone to bed well to wake no more, we give merely as a private opinion. The possibility of its truth is enough to deter any rational man from a late and hearty meal. This we do know with certainty, that waking up in the night with painful diarrhoea, or cholera, or bilious colic, ending in death in a very short time, is properly traceable to a late large meal. The truly wise will take the safer side. For persons who eat three times a day, it is amply sufficient to make the last meal of cold bread and butter and a cup of some warm drink. No one can starve on it, while a perseverance in the habit soon begets a vigorous appetite for breakfast, so promising of a day of comfort.—*Hall's Jour.*

CONGENITAL DEFICIENCY.

A woman gave birth to her first child at about the sixth month of pregnancy. The abdominal parietes were deficient in the umbilical and hypogastric regions, through which the peritoneum protruded as a bag, containing the liver and intestines. The placenta was immediately attached to the bag of the peritoneum by apparently the usual vessels, but the funis, as such, was wholly wanting. The genital organs, internal and external, were absent. No urinary bladder. Kidneys situated as usual, and apparently healthy in structure. Right ureter could be traced into the iliac fossa, but was there lost in cellular tissue ; the left, less than an inch long, terminated in a cellular body, not unlike an ovary. No ovary, however, could be demonstrated. nor was there any uterus. Large intestine wanting, the ileum ending in a cul de sac, and hanging free in the abdominal cavity. There was, consequently, no rectum nor anal aperture. The interior portion of the bony pelvis

was deficient, corresponding to the ischia and pubic bones. The lower extremities were consequently thrown upwards and outwards. The foetus did not appear to have been long dead, although the mother had never felt any movement of it. There was considerable hemorrhage from laceration of the placenta, owing to its close attachment to the foetus.—*Lanc.*

ABORTION WITHOUT PAIN.

BY A. P. MERRILL.

A married woman, the mother of several children, the youngest being a child of sixteen months still at the breast, had had several regular returns of her catamenia from the time the child was six months old, which finally ceased without being followed by the usual signs of pregnancy. She had worn much of the time, for years, and still continues to wear, one of those *supporters* which has a pad pressing upon the vulva, to relieve her of symptoms of prolapsus. About three months after her last regular menstruation, and one month after she had suffered from a slight uterine hemorrhage, discharging coagulable blood, she took a short walk to the house of a neighbor, and while there ascended a flight of stairs, and then returned home without suffering the least pain or indisposition of any kind. Having occasion soon afterwards to unloose the strap of her *supporter* to urinate, something escaped from her and fell upon the floor, which on examination, she was greatly surprised to find to be a foetus of about three months' growth, and which showed signs of having been dead for several days. No signs of placenta, or the least discharge of any kind appeared, and she continued about her household duties as usual, feeling little or no inconvenience from the accident. Just two weeks afterwards, she was suddenly seized with uterine hemorrhage to an alarming extent, which was soon relieved by treatment, when she remained in her usual state of health for a month, at which period she suffered another attack of hemorrhage similar to the former, which was also relieved without difficulty; and at the end of eight weeks from the time of the abortion, the hemorrhage returning, she was with some difficulty delivered of the placenta.—*Memp. Med. Rec.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

[Communicated for The Medical World.]

POSITION OF THE WATER CURE PRACTICE.

BY G. H. TAYLOR, M. D.

Among the various forms of medical treatment presented to the notice of the public, that of Water Cure stands somewhat conspicuous; and its advocates, compared with those of the other deviations from the old practice, do not, all things considered, suffer in regard to respectability or numbers. This consideration will secure a proper attention to its claims and purposes, as well as a just criticism of its scientific merits. History shows that heretofore the ebb and flow of popular opinion on medical subjects have been subject to some unaccountable caprice of time or place, the influence of which we should be strongly guarded against. The true physician, he who conscientiously consecrates his talents to promote the weal of his patrons, eschews all time-serving, sinister, or partisan advantages, but magnanimously devotes himself to *all* the sources of scientific facts, in furtherance of his objects. Hence he can know no sect as his—he is a *man* in principle, and a *physician*, not an *ist*, by profession. Every system of medical practice contains somewhat of truth, commending it to certain minds, yet affording nurture to errors also, and [of course] characterized by a limited reach of thought. While numbers of worthy citizens continue to find succor in the Water Cure, it is fair that the causes of its successes or its failures should be discussed for our instruction or imitation.

There are in this country some forty "establishments," as they are called, for the treatment of the sick by what is popularly known as Water Cure, and there are probably more than twice that number of physicians who claim that title. Beyond the empirical procedure of subjecting patients to divers bathing operations, it would be difficult to say what are the methods used by, or the principles actuating a majority of these practitioners. There are now, and have been in centuries past, hundreds of others that employ water more or less liberally, as they employ antimony, wine, or bark, with a curative intention, and it would be hard to decide from

any distinction in practice, which should be most entitled to the name. For nearly all of the practitioners composing the class in question, employ some form of medication in connection with the special remedy. Some use allopathic preparations in such quantities as suits their particular fancy, some rest their faith on the potential dilutions of Homœopathy, some are eclectic, some electropathic, motorpathic, mesmeropathic, or hygeopathic, and some all by turns, illustrating principles of the most heterogeneous order. Nor is there in general, the least harmony of feeling among them, but on the contrary much animosity exists, arising, doubtless from a frequent conflict of interests.

There are some younger members of this class that have received their discipline in the New York Hydropathic School, that might be excepted in the remark. The qualifications of these physicians by means of elementary study, and familiarity with standard and current medical literature, are equally various, and it is due the class to say that but few, if any, were driven to an apparently simple mode of practice, from a deficiency in the ordinary medical instruction of the schools. Indeed the great majority are seceders from the old practice, and some have had much experience in it. But all seem to agree in one thing, viz., the efficiency of pure water embracing all the temperatures that can be borne by the body, in aiding the restoration of the sick. The facts remain incontrovertible; they have come down from antiquity, and have asserted themselves through various channels in more modern times, strongly by Sir John Floyer and Bangard, by Currie, and now are re-organized in a more exclusive form by the copiers of Priessnitz.

The basic principles of science involved in all this history are veiled in not a little obscurity. Other considerations have been permitted to have greater weight, as a feeling of the appropriateness that a substance so abundant in nature, so necessary in all her processes and in all the arts of life, forming so large a portion of the living system, and so indispensable for every vital purpose, so beautifully limpid and pure, should be remedial also. Especially when in all ages, the primal aspirations of the heart for moral health and blessedness, are so beautifully symbolized by the same substance, would the instincts of man be justified in transferring the idea to a more material plane.

Of ideas typical of medical science, there are

theoretically two classes, that nearly always shade into each other by various mixtures, often in the same individual: the one class is the *routinistic*, and the other *philosophic*. It matters not what theory is embraced, the one class is assiduous in making a proper application of truth presumed to be well established; the other is ranging far more, perhaps, to the detriment, perhaps to the advantage of his practice. These are laboring through indefinite time for the perfection of science. It requires a series of individuals, perhaps of ages, for the culmination of a great thought. Each event is a term of a series, and the present is its summation of the past, still to be added to the future. There may be imperfections in the science of medicine while man continues to require its aid—his cravings assuredly will not all be gratified—still every basis and positive truth aids in approximating the perfect system that it is laudable for us to seek.

Although, then, the Water Cure may be practised empirically, that is, without a due appreciation of the connection between the diseased state and the remedy proposed for its cure, though it may be prescribed in connection with drugs, as though it ranked in their category, and though, even in the hands of its most enthusiastic admirers and ardent defenders, it is found sometimes to bring its persevering devotee into conditions of bad health, illy reconcilable with its professed healing powers, yet it must either partially or wholly embody some *principle*, the cognizance of which is important for every one who would be a true physician. We should regard the practice in question, then, not so much a realization of a true medical system, as prophetic of it.

The true principles of medical science are to be drawn from physiology rather than pathology. Life is evolved from conditions that are ever essentially the same, whether the manifestation be perfect or not. The power to restore diseased parts, arises from the same source as that which maintains well parts. And so the study of the living body in *health*, affords the most suitable indication of its needs, even in sickness. A change in the form, quantity and time, more or less radical of the bodily wants is indicated, in order to render the adaptation more complete and conformable to physiology; while the inherent vital power shall redispense the elemental constituents so as to secure their more perfect order and harmony.

A radical error is that of predicating a

medical treatment upon observations of various pathological states, that have been induced by drugs, in a diseased organism. We shall ever be misled, while we pursue this course, as we ever have been. The various mutations that medical science has suffered, argues a basis radically insecure, while the acknowledged success of various expectant plans of management, indicates the direction in which medical study should be carried.

The Water Cure makes a practical application of some, perhaps much, of physiological truth, and attempts the mastery of more with only partial success, but its noblest achievement is the successful opening of a way wherein we can perceive the yet dim light of an array of facts moulding themselves into a complete and harmonious system.

But the term *Water Cure* is much too restricted to embrace the scope of detail indicated above. It suggests the use, or rather the *science* of the use of baths for the sick, irrespective of other modes in which the system may be favorably impressed by natural or physiological means. The mode of its operation admits of no obscurity while restricted to the effects of Baths. Water Bathing, in whatever form, is an easy means of adding heat to the body or of taking it from the body,—the qualifying word *cold*, indicating that the amount of heat abstracted exceeds that furnished or produced in the part in the given time. This giving egress to temperature, either through a limited, or by the general surface, from the necessary and extensive correlation of the calorific with other functions, institutes a partial and temporary subjugation of all of them to *one*, and this one under the influence of its proper incentive. The system is impressed in harmony with physiology, for it is *at all* times suffering the impress of temperature, while the physician only metes out the relations of degree and time. Nature, in her diurnal and ordinary variations, subjects men to the same vicissitudes.

The co-ordinating functions are important, and advantage can be so taken that local manifestations may be secured, and the proper balance of vital activities, approximated. Five sixths of our food relates to calorification; the amount of respiration is determined by it, the variations of food should relate to it, the quality of the blood is influenced by it, capillary circulation, the functions of the liver, the sensibilities of the nervous system, and muscular contractility, all are under the control of

that which results in the production of heat, namely, its abstraction. No drug can have so extensive control, and yet the actuating cause is so appropriate that life cannot be even continued, without the presence of this condition.

In thus reducing the interference of art to a single physiological element, have we not ascended a step in the problem of curative measures?

But each of the manifold functions of the body has its appropriate external relation, through which its suffering state can be modified by processes purely physiological, and, it is believed, to the extent to which it is capable by any means.

Nutrition presents a problem more complex, upon which science has thrown much light, but which awaits much more before a satisfactory and practical application of facts can be established. How shall the daily supplies be adjusted to the altered needs of the sick body? How do the different saline elements contained in the different kinds of food, affect its transformation to living structures? and what are the special indications relating to this, in different diseases? Especially does such knowledge require to be definite and conclusive from the constant antagonism that is met with in the sensations and opinions of the sick, that have been long perverted by disease and bad habits. The most obvious indications of nature as pointed out by the senses are all-sufficient when in health; science should direct, in the absence of the natural guide. Very much, in the system of cure here contemplated, depends on the satisfactory solution of these questions.

Another, and most extensive physiological relation is that we have to the atmosphere. We live and move at the bottom of an immense sea of air, and we are powerfully impressed by its varying *weight*, as well as *temperature*. This fact is a familiar one in every body's experience especially, every invalid's. No monograph has yet appeared in English on this subject, but the result of extensive investigations and experiments has found the light in France. These are satisfactory beyond all precedent. They seem to have been initiated by those of M. Junott, upon the effects of removing the pressure from extensive portions of the body, as the extremities, in acute congestions. The compressed air-bath is reported to effect marvels in pulmonary disease, the increased amount of oxygen in due mixture relieves the respiratory craving and the rapid

pulse at once, while the *cause* is gradually extinguished. Should the flattering statements meet with confirmation, we should be introduced to a simple and entirely physiological method of combating certain cachexies, exceeding our most sanguine hopes.

The proper equipoise of the system cannot long be maintained, without the due employment of muscular contractility. Every vital part has its due use and due supplies, and the blood becomes poisoned by the habitual retention of what should be demanded of it to supply this use. Besides, anything of voluntary habit or of medical treatment that permits an undue preponderance of the nervous sensibilities over the dynamic capabilities, is, in the light of physiology, severely reprehensible.

Ling's system of medical "movements" carries exercise with its benefits, increased in a large ratio, to the sick bed, where the pill and potion were wont to go. By special exercise, adapted to each structure and function, the blood is circulated and aerated, the nutrition of the whole body or of special parts promoted, atrophies, congestions, hypertrophies remedied, and abnormal nervous excitation relieved promptly and permanently. Spinal curvatures, enlargements of lymphatic glands, prolapsus, and many other ailments arise from defect of this function, and are readily removed by its appropriate use.

Having conceived the important fact that the vital system may be profoundly impressed in the direction of its physiological action, and that these impressions can be nicely adapted to every pathological requirement, the investigation can be extended in many new directions, and an almost infinite variety of detail may be entered upon in adjusting special applications. In proportion as this is done, shall we acquire a more rational system of medical practice, which must gradually displace the many vague and contradictory plans of treatment that complete the measure of our present knowledge. But the most important advantage derivable from the prevalence of the ideas above adverted to, will consist in *maintaining* the health of the community, and thus *preventing* sickness, rather than the performance of boastful cures. Such a state of things will be less influential in multiplying doctors, than securing public interests.

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CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER X. BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Value of Opium as a Medicine—Injury by its Habitual Use—Its Effects—Difficulty of breaking off its use—Ministers, Lawyers and Ladies use it—Use of it in England—In a former Number we spoke of referring again to the Narcotics—This is the place for it.

The excessive use of *opium* seems to demand a more extended notice, than the other *narcotics*. Opium is one of the oldest of our medicines, and the fact that it is a valuable *medicine* should operate against its daily use. It is the most important narcotic of the *materia medica*. "If I were allowed but two weapons, with which to combat disease," said Sydenham, "opium would be my first choice." But we may ask, what has a man in health to do with medicine? Especially, with the most potent of all medicines?

It is a powerful poison, and operates, as such, upon the whole animal kingdom, causing paralysis, convulsions, stupor, fatuity, and death. Says Dr. Allen, in his inestimable Essay on the use of this drug, "the greater the development of the nervous system, the more marked and diversified are its effects. On the Indian and Negro, who have a predominance of the sanguine lymphatic or muscular temperament, its effects partake more of an animal nature; but where there is a greater development and activity of the brain, together with the nervous system, it operates more directly and effectively on the mind. At the same time, its deleterious effects on the body are by no means diminished.

"The effect of opium on the human system depends very much upon the quantity and frequent use, as well as the age, temperament, habits, idiosyncrasy, etc., of the individual. Its first and most common effect, is to excite the intellect, stimulate the imagination, and exalt the feelings into a state of great buoyancy and activity, producing unusual vivacity and brilliancy in conversation; and, at the same time, the most profound state of self-complacency. All ideas of labor, care and anxiety, vanish at once from the mind. Then follows a succession of gorgeous dreams, or a continued state of ecstasy, almost indescribable. Mr. Tiffany, in his late works on the "Canton Chinese," attempts to sketch this happy state of the opium-smoker. "The victim inhales his allotted quantity, and his senses swim around him; he

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

feels its subtle nature; he floats from earth, as if on pinions. He would leave his humble station, his honest toil, his comfortable home. He would be great. He runs with ease the paths of distinction; he distances rivals. Wealth and power wait upon him; the mighty take him by the hand. His dress is costly, his fare sumptuous, his home a palace, and he revels in the pleasures he has read of and believed to be a fiction. Music sounds through his lofty halls, sages assemble to do him honor, women of the brightest beauty throng around him; he is no longer poor, lowly, and despised; but a demi-god. The feast is spread, the sparkling cup filled to the brim with hot wine, and he rises to welcome one whom he has left far behind in the path of glory; to tender to him triumphant courtesy; and, as he advances a step, he reels and staggers wildly, and competitors, guests, minstrels, magnificence, all fade from his vision, and the gray cold reality of dawn breaks upon his heated brain, and he knows that all was nought, and that he is the same nameless creature that he has ever been. A cold shudder agitates his frame; weak and worthless he seeks the air, but finds no relief. He cannot turn his thoughts to his calling; he is unfit for exertion, his days pass in sloth, and in bitter remorse. And when night comes in gloom, he seeks again the sorceress into whose power he has sunk, and whose finger mocks while it beckons him on."

Wasn't it worthy of the *Christian* name of *England*, to force upon a Pagan nation, at the mouth of the cannon, and the point of the bayonet, a drug, the curse of which is but faintly shadowed forth in this description!! Oh, Shame! where is thy blush, not for Christianity only, but for *humanity*?

No drug, no means of intoxication captivates, bewitches, and chains down its poor victim to misery and woe like this. It is the "Goliath of Gath" among intoxicating agents. Its complete power over its votary is not wholly to be ascribed to the natural love of stimulus, (though even this is sufficiently powerful,) but that he has heard or experienced the ecstatic heaven which it creates.

There is no escape from the *fascination* of opium, when once its use has been commenced. The pleasurable sensations experienced at first soon pass away, and give place to the most horrid dreams and appalling pictures of death. Spectres of fearful visage haunt the mind. The light which once seemed to emanate from heaven, is converted into the gloom of hell. The countenance becomes pallid; the eye

assumes a wild brightness; memory fails; mental exertion and moral courage sink, general atrophy comes on, and the poor victim has ceased to live before he really dies. This fearful state of things is not reached by all who use opium. But there is a strong tendency to it in any case where it is used. Its customary use is like a whirlpool from which there is no escape to any who come within the eddy.

The inebriation from alcohol can scarcely be compared with that arising from opium. Its worst feature is, that none return from its use, who have once embraced it. This cannot be said respecting alcohol. From the latter there are many reformed inebriates. From opium there are none where the drug has been within their reach. The Chinese, when he has become addicted to its use, will steal, sell his property, his children, and finally, even murder for it. But a few days ago a man called on a physician and wished to be sent to the city hospital as a vagabond, that he might be delivered from the use of this drug. He said it had ruined him, and he had no power to escape from its influence. He was sent at his own request, as a vagabond, to Deer Island, and is now being successfully treated by Dr. Moriarty of that hospital.

It is surprising what an amount of this drug may be taken when one has become accustomed to its use. Physicians sometimes give one, two, and three ounces in twenty-four hours, in cases of great pain. Its use is much more frequent in the community than many suppose. Even among the higher classes, it prevails to an alarming extent. At a meeting of physicians held in Boston, it was stated by one of the oldest and most experienced, that "he knew a lady who took seventeen teaspoonfuls every morning of laudanum to set her up for the day; and it must be made of the best opium, as she would know in a minute, if it were in the least adulterated."

It is believed that many sedentary and studious men, and many clergymen are in the habitual use of this drug, and that under its stimulus many literary works, and many sermons are written, and lawyers' pleas made. We scarcely need add that no habit can be more ruinous to the health of the body and the faculties of the mind.

Since the discovery and introduction of the use of chloroform and ether, these agents have been much employed to produce intoxication. Many persons keep themselves half intoxicated by them. The effect is very similar to that of other narcotics, and lays a foundation for many

nervous diseases. It cannot be too strongly condemned. We advise all who value health to wholly forego the use of these injurious agents.

When the above was read some time since, it was stated by several clergymen present, that they had known many cases where opium had been habitually used by clergymen, and names were given of some eminent in that profession who had seriously impaired their intellect and judgment by its use. We forbear to give these names, as some of these gentlemen are now no longer among the living. We will add only that it was the unanimous opinion of all present, that this was a subject which ought to be brought to the notice of the profession, and to that of students of all classes.

The writer has given the alarm, and candor obliges him to say that he thinks this drug is used quite as much among *lawyers* as ministers, and much more among fashionable ladies in high life than in either of the learned professions.

Mr. De Quincey, the author of "Confessions of an English Opium Eater," says, "who are they?" (Opium-eaters.) "Reader, I am bound to say, a very numerous class indeed. Of this I became convinced some years ago, by computing, at that time, the number of those in one small class of English society, (the class of men distinguished for talent and notoriety) who were known to me directly or indirectly as opium-eaters; such, for instance, as the eloquent and benevolent William Wilberforce; the late Dean of Carlisle, Dr. Isaac Milner; the first Lord Erskine; Mr. — the philosopher; a late under Secretary of State, Mr. Addington, brother to the first Lord Sidmouth (who described to me the sensation which first drove him to the use of opium in the very same words as the Dean of Carlisle, viz.: 'that he felt as though rats were gnawing at the coats of his stomach;') Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and many others hardly less celebrated."

The reader may be astonished to find such men classed among opium-eaters. But his astonishment would be much augmented if the writer were to give the names now in his possession of the recent dead, and present living among the talented and respected in the learned professions in America, not excepting even the clergy. Suffice it to say, the daughter, America, is by no means outdone in the use of this narcotic by her mother, England.

IMPERFORATE HYMEN

WITH ACCUMULATION OF MENSTRUAL BLOOD
WITHIN THE VAGINA AND UTERUS.

BY DR. CHARLES BELL.

Entire occlusion of the vagina is a rare condition. Isaac Baker Brown of London in his "Surgical Diseases of Women" mentions two instances from his experience at St. Mary's Hospital, and an extensive private practice. At the time he was consulted on them, however, there was not perfect occlusion, the catamenia escaping in the one through an opening in the membrane, and a urethro-vaginal fistula in the other. One of the ladies was twenty-nine, the other thirty-five years of age, and had been married eighteen months.

Dr. Dewes, of Philadelphia, had not seen an instance up to the publication of his Treatise on Females in 1843. Dr. Shuttice, of Virginia, reported a case in the American Journal for 1844, in which a young lady lost about eight pounds of dark grumous blood.

A case occurred in the London Hospital a few years ago, in which inflammation of the peritoneum followed the operation, and the patient came near losing her life. Morgagni relates a case which terminated fatally, and on examination it was found the fluid had escaped into the peritoneal sac through a rupture in a Fallopian tube.

The causes which endanger life after this operation, would seem to be those producing epidemic puerperal fever; the change this fluid undergoes on the admission of air, the inflammation established by the use of injections, that resulting in the vagina from the operation and substances used for dilatation, and its extension to the peritoneum and substance of the uterus, and the too sudden evacuation of the fluid. Dr. Blundell thinks some great pathologic truth may be concealed in supposing that the lochia resemble the catamenia; but I apprehend the lochia have no particular agency, provided they do not become offensive and ichorous in the production of puerperal peritonitis.

It is not doubted that hidden influences occasionally render peritonitis more liable to supervene upon the inflammation established in the vagina and uterus after delivery, and the same inexplicable causes would tend to an inflammation of this membrane, were an operation for the removal of the fluid performed during a season of their existence. It would,

therefore, be good precaution to defer this operation, unless urgently called for, till such time as these causes had passed away. As Mr. Brown very properly remarks, it is easy to understand how an inflammation in the mucous membrane of the vagina may extend to the uterus and through the Fallopian tubes to the peritoneum; but I cannot so readily adopt his method of removing the hymen by a more surgical procedure than division in catamenial accumulation and long distension of the uterus. It would seem to be his opinion that the fatality of this operation depends on inflammation communicated from the vagina and uterus, at the same time his method of removing the hymen by a circular incision at the place of its junction with the labia, could not but tend to a much more serious disease in those organs. That inflammation, also, would not be so readily resolved on account of the considerable distension necessary to prevent subsequent contraction at this point. His cases were successfully treated, but it is probable the fluid secreted at each menstrual period in the instances mentioned by this gentleman was entirely discharged through the opening in the membrane and fistula, before the recurrence of another period, consequently there was no unnatural condition of the organs. The blood had not become depraved by the absorption and retention of an excrementitious fluid. There was *only* an obstruction at the ostium vaginae.

A case of this kind occurred in my practice on the 10th of January, 1857. The young lady was fourteen years of age, well developed, and of a plethoric habit. About a year since she was attacked with suppression of urine, for which the warm bath and catheter were used, but the occlusion was not discovered. For something more than a year she has frequently complained of headache, constipation, vertigo, and dysuria. Several physicians have been consulted on her case, and she has been treated, as such cases usually are, for a variety of disorders of the genito—urinary organs. When I saw her she complained of acute pain in the pelvis and head, and frequent desire to void urine. On examination per vaginam, I found a puffy tumor bulging beyond the labia, and another in the abdomen as large as a child's head. From these circumstances and the previous history of the case, it was evident that there had been a regular secretion of menstrual blood for more than a year and a half, and that it had been retained within the uterus and vagina by an imperforate hymen.

As the pain in the region of the uterus was intense, and supposing this her menstrual period, and that the symptoms would be aggravated by the continued secretion of the fluid, an immediate operation seemed to be indicated. The patient was placed in the lithotomy position, and a visual examination made. The hymen was about two inches in diameter, lined by a mucous membrane of a red color, and situated, by its anterior attachment, at a third of an inch below the meatus urinarius, which was a little enlarged. I explored carefully with a small probe, but could find no opening into the vagina. I also passed a catheter into the bladder to preclude the possibility that a distension of this organ might cause the pelvic tumor. I made the attempt to pass a straight bistoury into the vagina, but the dense fibroid, almost cartilaginous membrane, receded, notwithstanding considerable pressure from within by the fluid, and wishing to avoid any injury from the too sudden admission of the knife, I hooked up the membrane with a tenaculum in my left hand, and holding it firmly, divided it on the instrument antero-posteriorly. Immediately a viscid fluid resembling treacle streamed from the opening, and continued, to the amount of forty or fifty ounces. The uterus was then syringed with tepid water, a plug of oiled lint introduced into the vagina, a bandage placed around the abdomen, and the patient placed in bed. The pain in the pelvis subsided. The syringing was repeated once daily for about two weeks following the operation, sometimes using sulph. zinc, 4 grs. to the ounce. On the second and third day the discharge became very offensive, but soon improved in that respect. A copious leucorrhoea from direct irritation was established by the dilator, and the use of instruments, but gradually lessened and ceased on the removal of these causes. Some medicine was administered as preventive of any excitement which might arise, and to correct the condition of the digestive organs, and no untoward symptom supervened. Three weeks from the date of the operation, the patient was attacked with a severe Bilious Remittent Fever attended with considerable peritonitis, which, fortunately, did not extend to that portion of the membrane that passes over the uterus. The little discharge that continued was slightly sanguineous at times during this sickness, but scarcely sufficient to suppose the recurrence of a menstrual period.

It has been advised to make a stellated or crucial incision, and remove the angular pieces

of membrane, but I do not think the process would be attended with advantage in a membrane of this character, which was at least a quarter of an inch in thickness. The annular cicatrix in an already tough membrane would be still more unyielding, while the danger of vaginitis from the irritation of what remained would not be diminished. The present purpose of the vagina is a conduit for the menstrual discharge, and many years may elapse, should it not become obliterated within that period, before what remains will require removal. In the meantime, the uterus will regain its natural size and condition, the vaginal mucous membrane will become less obnoxious to inflammation, the constitution recover from any depraved condition which might augment the danger of subsequent disease, and it could then be removed without the risk of vaginitis, metritis, or constriction at the vulva.

Nantucket, Feb., 1857.

(For the Medical World.)

MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN CHICAGO.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—It is not my intention to alarm the slow coaches of the East, with an account of the astonishing rapidity with which this young city is developing. We can hardly realize it, who are wedded to the spot. There is no knowing what will become of New York and Boston, when Chicago is finished! More stir, life, energy and hurly-burly of commercial business is before one's eyes in one day in Chicago, than transpires in self-complacent, fanatical, and bigoted Massachusetts in a month. Perhaps this is not in good taste to speak out just what all have at their tongue's end this way, when referring to the Old Bay State. But of course we shall not mourn over your bad policy in driving away all the enterprising young men, and business too, since it augments and strengthens ours.

Pardon me, for we are all under a degree of excitement in the West. We are gratified with the determined spirit abroad,—the public spirit and the immense resources of the West, for enriching and enabling those who by taking Time by the forelock, are becoming men of full stature.

Although my intention was a running account of medicine and medical prospects in Chicago, my mind has been on the rise of lots

and thirty per cent. interest, too long, to do any kind of justice to the subject. However, it may be announced at the onset that physicians of every imaginable order abound. Those knowing the least are actually paid the best, because their capital cost nothing. On the other hand, those highly educated, with a few exceptions, do not get a quarter per cent. on their investment of a polished classical or professional education.

When a physician's services are required, no questions are asked in respect to qualifications. A physician is supposed to be a man with a sign on a corner house, or who has an office in a building where the rent is high. Some of those ignoramuses who disgrace every city, by assuming to be physicians, and thus indirectly bring contempt on the regular fraternity, thrive admirably. How many genuine Æsculapian philosophers are starving over blighted prospects, cannot be ascertained.

No candidates for public patronage in the place more cordially detest each other, than certain gentlemen who ought to be above the degrading feeling of jealousy that Dr. P. or or Q. are having more to do than themselves.

What do all the wise saws in modern medical ethics amount to? Some of those who discourse beautifully about brotherly harmony in the ranks, and preach upon the virtue of obedience to the exact letter of the code, are, as often as otherwise, mischief-making, troublesome, and at the bottom of all the local difficulties in circles of practice. The irregulars actually take advantage of these rumblings and occasional disruptions, and extend their domain of operations into families where they never should have been admitted.

Chicago has some excellent physicians and surgeons. They are qualified for any emergency, and eminently successful; water-cures, eclectics, homœopathists, and scores besides, whose particular ism is not recollected, are in the full tide of success. Our medical writers are few in number,—not because they cannot write, but because they will not withdraw themselves from the pursuit of fortune. We are all determined to make money, and publish our experience and medical monograms when old age has frosted our locks.

Should you be consulted by those who are desirous of finding a field for pitching their tents, assure them that not one physician in six already initiated into the ways and whims of Chicago, by a residence of some years, sustain themselves by practice. They come and go—but where they go to is a question.

Physicians are a *drug* in Chicago, in the opinion of a pleasant neighbor.

With consideration,

Your obliged friend,

S. J. W——, M. D.

Chicago, Illinois, Feb. 17, 1857.

(For The Medical World.)

SOLUBLE IODINE.

SIR:—Please say what is the question concerning "Iodine Water?" I have seen it two or three times mentioned in the "Medical World," but not discussed.

Iodine is soluble in pure water—enough to be useful in the practice of medicine, but in a low degree about 1 1-16 grs. in 1 lb. water. The addition of two equivalents of Bromine, on a convenient quantity of Alcohol, Hydriodic Acid, Iodide of Potassium, or any other soluble Iodide, on Hyposulphite of Soda, will enable the water to dissolve it to the requisite extent, for any medical or surgical use. Of these means I prefer the Hydriodic Acid, as interfering the least with the chemical purity of the article: the only addition being Eq. 1 of H.

Yours respectfully,

WM. F. TEULON.

35 Beach st., Feb. 12th, 1857.

FLOATING FACTS.

Living upon one's own Body.—A woman condemned to death, in the reign of Richard III., lived forty days without food or drink.—A young lady sixteen years of age, is mentioned in the Edinburgh Medical Essays, for 1720, who was thrown into such a violent tetanus, or rigidity of the muscles, by the death of her father, that she was unable to swallow for fifty-four days; and when she came into the natural state again, she declared that she had no sense of hunger or thirst. A still more extraordinary account than this, is related of a man, who on recovering from an inflammatory fever, had such a dislike to food of all kinds, that for eighteen years he never tasted anything but water. The sleeping man from Rochester, who was exhibited in New-York, last summer, and who had not partaken of food for a long time, was of a similar character.

Longevity of Students.—It is a popular error to suppose that scholars and literary men

are shorter lived than other men. Hardly an eminent author of modern times but affords an example of longevity. Byron and Keats, it is true, died young—the latter by consumption, the former by irregularities that would have killed anybody. But Wordsworth, Southey, Tom Moore and James Montgomery lived to an advanced age. Rogers at his death was above ninety, and De Quincey, Walter Savage Landor and Humboldt, are still alive and at work, at past three-score and ten. Our own country furnishes similar examples in Benton, Silliman, Irving, Halleck and Pierpont; all old men, but still strong in health and mental vigor. The truth is, men oftener rust out than wear out; and there is no doubt that habitual mental employment tends to keep the body young.

Camphor Tree.—According to the statement in Com. Perry's expedition to Japan, the Camphor tree attains a venerable longevity. One particular tree was vigorous one hundred and thirty-five years after it had been described by a traveller.

But no tree is supposed to be so tenacious of life as the olive. In the garden of Gethsemane we have personally examined seven gnarled, hardy olives, reputed to have been standing since the betrayal of our Saviour on that memorable spot. It is a well ascertained fact that those identical trees were so much venerated six hundred years ago, that they were exempted from the tree tax, assessed upon those who were the owners of olive trees. And to this day, the monks, proprietors of the celebrated enclosure at the foot of Mount Olivet, pay no tree tax on those ancient representatives of many past ages.

New Thermometer.—The self-registering minimum thermometer, made by Messrs. Negretts & Zambra, consists of a glass tube mounted on a strong zinc scale, the bulb and part of the bore of which is filled with perfectly pure spirits of wine, in which floats freely a black glass index. A slight elevation of the thermometer, bulb uppermost, will cause the glass index to pass to the surface of the liquid, where it will remain, unless violently shaken. On a decrease of temperature the alcohol recedes, taking with it the glass index. On an increase of temperature the alcohol alone extends in the tube, leaving the end of the index farthest from the bulb, indicating the lowest temperature that has taken place.

Advancement of Science.—The German Association, at the last meeting, was honored by all the learned men of their country. A marked attention seems to have been given to the phenomena of electricity, by very many of the professors. There were several communications in regard to the Solar Spectrum. The extreme minuteness of the investigations of the German philosophers is exceedingly important to the progress of science, but the common mind finds nothing in their researches to popularize for the instruction of the people. Some of their discoveries cannot be understood at all, without a previous knowledge of every thing positively abstruse in nature and art.

Identity.—A singular case involving a question of identity, occurred in Salem, Mass. One Joseph Wilson had been indicted for crime, and a person of that name, residing in Plymouth, was brought before the Court. When asked for a plea by the clerk, he said that he might as well plead guilty. Police-officer Kilburn, of Boston, who was acquainted with the culprit, and had seen the man arrested at Plymouth previous to his plea, stated that he was not the man indicated in the indictment, who, he was confident, was in the care of the House of Correction, South Boston, and so it proved upon investigation.

Wedlock and Age.—Mr. Phineas Green and his wife, of Reading, Mass., are, perhaps, the oldest married couple in the United States. Mr. Green is ninety-two years old. He enjoys good health, and is able to make three pairs of shoes per day, and, until the present winter, he has cut his own wood. Mrs. Green is ninety-three years old. Her health is still very good. She does the cooking, washing, ironing, &c., of the family. She has a sister living with her who is nearly eighty years old.

An Eye forced out.—A man by the name of Finney, in Syracuse, N. Y., while vomiting, forced out one of his eyes completely out of the socket, so that it hung down upon his cheek. The ball was allowed to remain in that position several days, until it finally swelled to an enormous size, and, the humors of the eye being intercepted, it actually began to mortify. A physician (Dr. Lighthill) was called in, and he succeeded in forcing the eye back. With careful attention, the Standard says, the eye will soon be healed, but the sight is lost forever.

Honoring Old Age.—Mrs. Pocock, of Blackheath, England, the mother of three generations of livery-stable keepers, was driven through the village on her hundredth birth-day, in a chariot drawn by eight white horses, with outriders. She afterwards presided at a dinner, and opened a ball in the evening, given to honor her.

A Mrs. Curgenvver, of Truro, Eng., the widow of a captain of the Navy, died lately, in her *one hundred and seventh year*.

Natural Lamps.—Mr. Fletcher stated in a public lecture at the Tremont Temple, that he had imprisoned a fire-fly, while in Brazil, under an inverted tumbler, by the brilliant light of which he could read the finest print. It is not a succession of flashes, but a steady, bright light, emanating from three points on the insect's body. The theory now is that it is not a phosphorescent illumination, but an actual combustion of fluids secreted and poured into transparent membranous receptacles.

Sanitary Condition of Cayenne.—In 1856 the deaths were 56 per cent.: 82 per cent. of the convicts died of yellow fever, which became endemical in Guiana, and 24 per cent. died of swamp fever. The average life of convicts sent there is 32 years and a few days. A worse set of villains never escaped the gallows. Although provided with food enough, they assassinated four of their terrible companions, last season, and then ate them up!

Suspended Animation.—Tarlton B. Butler, a timber cutter of Scriven County, Ga., went to Savannah since Christmas to sell timber, was taken sick, and it was thought died. There being a boat about to leave, his remains were deposited in a coffin and sent home. On opening the coffin after its arrival, he was discovered to smile. Medical assistance was immediately called, and it is said he is fast recovering. He was in the coffin nearly two days and nights.

Progress of Spiritualism.—There are five cases of insanity in the Indiana asylum—two males and three females—put down to the credit of Spiritualism.

A Centenarian Woman.—Died in Rockville, Ct., 27th ult., Esther Cady, aged 100 years, a grand daughter of Rev. Timothy Edwards, of East Windsor, Ct., and niece of Rev. Jonathan Edwards, D. D., the great American divine.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Amylene, made by distilling fusil oil with chloride of zinc, has been tried at King's Hospital, in London, as a new agent for suspending sensation, in surgical operations. It offers, thus far, no advantages over ether or chloroform, as an anæsthetic agent. Cahours, a French chemist, was the real discoverer of it, some years ago.

There is a physician in the State Prison, at Auburn, N. Y., under sentence for fourteen years, — convicted on the testimony of one witness only, — who had a bad reputation, and was of doubtful character. How could any jury, under such circumstances, knowing, as they did, something of the life of the witness, bring in a verdict of guilty?

A bill for the removal of the quarantine station of New York, from Staten Island, has been reported in the Legislature, at Albany. The object is to save the city of New York from the constant liability of an introduction of some devastating disease from a point so near, where diseases are brought and concentrated from all countries. There are too many interested, however, in keeping the establishment where it is, to allow the bill to pass without pointed opposition.

A State hospital for women, to be located in the city of New York, is a favorite object. Efforts are not wanting to give a favorable legislative turn to the subject. The petition is signed by one hundred and twenty-six physicians. How many of the number expect to be officially connected with the institution?

Boston actually needs two more hospitals, — one at the South End, and the other at East Boston. If some of those wealthy, benevolent citizens, whose wills are already made in favor of the Massachusetts General Hospital, — already extremely well endowed, — would found a new one, future generations would call them blessed.

If there were more cheap, innocent public amusements in this country, there would be fewer crimes. All amusements in cities are too dear for the masses. They have not the means of gratifying a natural propensity for sights, shows, plays, spectacles, paintings, &c., which they see others indulge in — and crime results from contrasting their privileges and cultivating depraved associations.

Dr. Beigler, who has been in custody at Buffalo, N. Y., for thirty-five days, charged

with killing, in process of abortion, the girl whom he has seduced, has been admitted to bail in \$12,000.

President Benson merely mentions the arrival of Dr. J. Z. Forney, with a commission as the United States commercial agent for Monrovia, but gives no other information on that subject, and makes no comment.

By intelligence from Havana, Dr. Kane seems not to gain as fast as represented a few weeks since. His disease is of a scrofulous character, contracted during his severe labors and privations in the Arctic regions. He has not been out of his room since he came here, and his friends have great fears that he will never recover.

In the legislature of Massachusetts, now in session, there are twelve physicians.

A beautiful lifelike miniature engraving of the late eminent Dr. John T. Shotwell, of Cincinnati, appears in the February No. of the Cincinnati Medical Observer.

A physician from the United States has a private hospital in Cuba, which is supposed to be exceedingly profitable. No foreigner is permitted to practise medicine or surgery on the island, without sustaining an examination before a medical commission authorized by government.

De Quincey, the elegant Scotch writer, known as the opium-eater, contends that the practice of taking that potent drug habitually, does no injury to body or mind, and illustrates the proposition by citing his own case.

Scarlet fever has generally disappeared. The belladonna controversy, however, is intensely active. One party believes, and the other does not, in its prophylactic efficacy. The subject will gradually die away, without having the point settled, just like the contagiousness of yellow fever, which is annually discussed, and left open for further discussion by a fresh set of controversialists.

An amount of literary labor is noticeable in the New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, — principally translations, by M. Morton Dowler, M. D., highly creditable to his industry. He is laying a broad and sure foundation for eminence. All the available medical talent of this country is needed, and yet how many hundreds of highly educated young physicians fritter away life in trifling pursuits, who might secure distinction for themselves and honorable mention in the future annals of our country.

Scarlet fever is raging throughout Northern Mississippi.

A second number of the American Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette abounds in useful articles. The proprietors have had such satisfactory encouragement that they consider it established. Success to the enterprise! Every apothecary and druggist in the country should subscribe.

The residence of Dr. James Rush, of Philadelphia, was entered on Friday night, and robbed of eight articles of jewelry of the most valuable character, consisting of diamond and pearl necklaces, bracelets, earrings, breastpins, &c. A reward of \$1000 has been offered for their recovery.

Small-pox has appeared at new points in several States within the past few weeks. There is but one way of limiting its fearful progress,—vaccination. In time of peace, prepare for war. Protect those who have not been vaccinated, whether small-pox is approaching or not.

There is a general calm in the practice of medicine. A time of health is recognized. Scarlet fever is gradually disappearing, and no other epidemic has taken its place.

Several instances of longevity, quite remarkable, chiefly of women, have been noticed recently by the press. Physicians have remarked that those who have been mothers of large families of children, actually have the longest lease of life.

Small-pox is not yet extinct. Correspondents give vivid accounts of the excitement prevailing where vaccination has been neglected.

The Marine Hospital, now drawing to completion at Chelsea, near Boston, is a commanding edifice. It will probably be the most perfect in its internal arrangements, of any hospital in this country. The Marine hospital at Portland, Maine, also makes a fine appearance, seen from the city. From the amount of money expended on it by the government, it will undoubtedly be an admirable establishment.

The trustees of the Female Medical College have petitioned the municipal authorities of Boston, for assistance to enable the institution to purchase the Lying-In Hospital,—at present closed,—being without funds or patients.

Dr. William W. Gwin, has been re-elected U. S. Senator from California, for the short term.

Small pox has recently appeared in one of the large towns of Georgia, but it will be controlled very readily by vaccination.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 25, 1857.

PROGRESS OF CRIME.—There are seasons when frightful violations of human and divine laws are infectious. It has been so the present winter. It has been charged upon the Puritans that they dealt in poison. In other words, the descendants of the old stock of religious bigots in New England, gratify their revenge by the cruel subtlety of arsenic and other deadly potions. But this assertion cannot be sustained by historical evidence. Surely, there are no more atrocious crimes committed in New England than elsewhere. While men are without the fear of God, and imagine that happiness can be secured by a violation of the laws of a Christian country, there will continue to be startling examples from one period to another, of the awful tragedy of murder. No kind of death-penalty, even when accompanied by torture, has sufficiently restrained those who put the laws at defiance, from dreadful acts and ferocious plunges into human blood.

Intellectual philosophy throws no light on the mystery of the contagiousness of crime. Even the phrenologists, who are really the most critical in their researches into the constitution of the mind, have failed to demonstrate that a diseased cerebral action exists, and yet they have not hesitated to apologize guardedly, for those who perform dreadful feats, because it must have transpired in a paroxysm of insanity.

The people do not believe in moral insanity, nor allow that plea to excuse a criminal from a penalty, due to a wilful violation of ordinances that were framed for the security of life and property.

There are times when incendiaries abound. Fires are set at all points of the compass, and even the execution of those caught in the act, does not deter others from committing precisely the same outrage. The fear of death weighs nothing with them. So it is in regard to murder. Then again there are seasons when suicide is contagious.

Unquestionably, the circulation of the news of crime with all the attendant circumstances, awakens a disposition in some persons to engage in similar actions. If, therefore, less publicity were given to such shocking events as startle the world by their enormity, the tendency to commit deeds of dark design, which may not have been developed, but like a coiled serpent, lie in ambush, a ready messenger of death in extraordinary forms when roused, might slumber on through their entire lives, without the individual being conscious of the devil within him.

This would be one of the direct advantages of withholding from the multitude, circumstantial accounts of the worst and most heart-rending scenes in the domain of bloody deeds.

Some years ago a young man by the name of Carter,

was hung in Massachusetts for rape. On the very day of the execution, a brother of the wretched criminal committed the same great crime. This was clearly an illustration of the proposition entertained in these observations, viz., that some crimes are infectious; and those that are so considered, singular as it may appear, belong exclusively to the catalogue of those most heinous and revolting in the annals of jurisprudence.

OPIUM-EATING.—All persons regard the growing vice of opium-eating with alarm. And well they may, for in this climate, those who habitually indulge in the daily use of that wonderful drug, in any form, are doomed beings. They cannot withstand the temptation, when the system has been a few months under its potent influence. Very large quantities are consumed in this country—but not one-fourth of the importation is presumed to be prescribed by physicians. They are cautioned by ardent temperance reformers to give it as sparingly as possible in practice, lest it should in some develop an appetite for the bewitching gum.

De Quincy's account of the manner he has luxuriated on that powerful article of the *materia medica* without affecting him otherwise than agreeably, according to his own representations, is calculated to do incalculable injury to society. Under an erroneous impression that the splendid author of the *Confessions* must know far more about the bane and benefits of opium-eating than those who never swallowed a particle, weak-minded men and women of active imaginations, uncontrolled by sound judgment, will be very apt to copy his habits with an expectation of being mentally exalted.

Mr. De Quincy, now upwards of seventy, for fifty consecutive years has been under the constant influence of opium; and when charged to the highest bearable point, has been writing with a splendor and prodigality of thought absolutely amazing. He has been charming the world by the purity, beauty and grandeur of his style and sentiments. He contends, we believe, that it prevents consumption by keeping up an insensible perspiration which relieves the lungs. This, however, is not the theory of a medical philosopher.

Let no one in his senses be seduced by the false reasonings of that gifted genius, nor conceive that he can at will thrust the charm away. Physicians occasionally partially fall under the sin of opium-eating. There is no valid apology for it, and a premature decay of body and mind invariably exposes the curse that has blighted their prospects.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—Since the statement made from an official source at the Suffolk District medical meeting, that the whole medical profession of Massachusetts, thus far, had taken but nine volumes of the late transactions of the National Association, we have come to the conclusion

that the loss is far greater to ourselves than the learned body from whence the work emanated. It has been a matter of proud satisfaction, that the collections of papers published under the authority of that excellent institution were such as would do the country honor wherever they were circulated. Probably no purely medical writings are more carefully prepared, or could be more safely trusted to as precedents. Certainly the surgical instruction to be gathered from the series may be always followed as sure guides in practice.

If we have no national medical literature, no one in his senses would think of asserting there are no competent authors in the United States. But if we ourselves are indifferent to the prosperity of the Association, whose special object and mission, are to give character and elevation to the medical profession, and do nothing towards encouraging good writers to communicate their facts to a central fountain, to be distributed for the common advantage, it is not at all strange that the publishing committee express surprise that Massachusetts has had but nine volumes, when a fair inference would have been, from the high scientific reputation of the medical gentlemen of the Commonwealth, two hundred, at least, would have been promptly solicited.

Without being considered obtrusive,—we take the liberty of reminding those who have not procured this important volume, to address Dr. Caspar Wister, of Philadelphia, for a copy.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH.—Notwithstanding the intense severity of a part of the winter, and the consequent suffering that resulted from not being prepared to meet the varying changes of weather, the general health of the country is remarkably good. With the exception of an occasional prevalence of scarlet fever at a few points, there has been no raging epidemic, nor any outbreak of disease to excite and terrify the people. There will always be casualties so long as the ordinary affairs of life require human hands; and sporadic diseases will be met with wherever there are habitations.

Hygienic laws, on which the stability of the public health essentially depends, are well understood by medical men; and influenced by them, legislative and municipal ordinances and regulations are established with reference to this great and all-important point, viz., the preservation of the public health.

Where there is a hereditary tendency to phthisis, the sudden changes of temperature, in passing from warm apartments to the open air, while the mercury was rising and falling in an unusual manner, the lungs have been severely tried. It is to be feared that many such may find themselves in waning health, from this prolific source of pulmonary disease.

If ladies could be persuaded to clothe themselves in a proper manner to resist the destroying influences which sudden exposures in the fitful climate of New England, the bills of mortality would not present that

melancholy majority of deaths by consumption, which now annually characterizes the necrological records of town and country.

At this particular period, towards the close of February, there is a general good health of the United States. The pestilence that walketh in darkness and wasteth at noon day, is not recognized on the continent.

SINS OF CITIES.—A pamphlet has been put into our hands recently, which is of no every-day kind. It treats medically and morally of the peculiar festering of vice in cities. It probes, with a bold and searching energy, the damning sin of commercial towns; and if it does not confess that the enlightened, Christian age in which we live, is as bad as any in the annals of ancient humanity, the inference is irresistible that it is no better.

Philanthropists may propose remedies, and the good and virtuous preach and deplore the depravity which invariably accompanies the highest intellectual conditions of society; but no changes are accomplished through the efforts of law, the force of example, the appeals of the mother, the magistrate, or the bolts of prison doors.

Fortunately for our pride, no statistics of the actual state of city corruptions, in the United States, are given. Police returns in New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, and some others, enable those who are curious in such matters, or wretched in proportion to their knowledge of the sins of cities, to infer the amount of misery that clings to each of them.

Of London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, and most, if not all the principal cities in Europe, much more is known than revealed, in regard to the great specific curse in the wake of civilization.

No ingenuity has lessened the evil, abated the nuisance, even under circumstances favorable for the exercise of despotic power, in the attempted suppression of the undermining vice of vices,—still it exists in unabated hatefulness, and it will, while man inhabits the earth, and woman is unconscious of all the rights and dignities which are her birthright.

The pamphlet relates to the universal crime of prostitution,—which defies the united efforts of both Church and State, either to limit or eradicate it. A great subject is therefore to be discussed, by-and-by,—but not with the expectation of purifying cities, which are charitably supposed, necessarily, like volcanoes, to require safety valves to prevent the contamination and utter destruction of the race.

ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS IN MEDICAL PRACTICE.—At the thirty-fourth Commencement of the Berkshire Medical College, a discourse was given by the Rev. S. S. N. Greely, of Great Barrington, Mass., that has special claims on the profession. He writes

like a man who has studied physicians as well as men, and in this felicitous address, their duties, aims, responsibilities, and the elements of success in medical practice, are clearly defined. He has analyzed all the different orders of practitioners peculiar to this prolific age, and the following extract shows what is thought of each of them.

Medical practice “of the old school,” as it is sometimes termed, certainly in its philosophical principles, is too old and too well established to be ever superseded or overthrown. It is not the sudden fabrication of ignorance, but the results of the labors and studies of the most thorough scholars, and of experiments, observation, and deductions of ages. And yet, can it be demonstrated that no accessions, and valuable accessions to its pharmacy and its practice can be made by the discoveries of the less scientific “Botanist?” Look at the disciple of Dr. Thompson. Is there *no* virtue in hot water? no power and energy in steam? Gentlemen, this is an *age* of steam! It should not be entrusted to the hands of the ignorant, we admit; but who will assail it in terms of indiscriminate and unmeasured condemnation?

Then there is Hydropathy, reaching its pail of cold water and crash towel over here from Germany. Is there matter for ridicule here? It is the water of life to many a sloven!

And then there is Homœopathy (for we have spoken of that,) and will you consign it to the shades, or brand it as at most an absurdity? Is it not safe, however? And where it does not cure, does it injure or kill the patient? But, it is said, it deals in such minutiae of good things—such medical transcendentalism, that it is impossible there should be any virtue in the system. On a calm philosophical view, is this so, however? Is it destitute of sound philosophy? Here, for instance, is the gouty epicure, gluttonous and bloated. Day by day he has accumulated the “adipose,” till the channels of life are clogged, and nature labors and “wheezeth heavily.” He must have help, or die. What says reason in this case? Can there be anything more strictly rational, more soundly philosophical than to bid that man diet on the shadow of a broiled chicken?

ACCESSIONS TO THE PROFESSION.—Large numbers of medical graduates will leave the colleges the present spring. The lecture season is drawing to a close, and the question very naturally propounded is this—Where can they all find employment?

A Chinese proverb says “there never was a mouth without something to put into it.” It would be a discouraging condition of the country, if there could be no place found for the exercise of their vocation. The field is certainly becoming more circumscribed, but talent will always be sustained. Very many who have studiously prepared themselves for practice, enter immediately upon other and more remunerating pursuits, on taking their degree. They are certainly wise in doing so, if one of the objects contemplated is to secure a competency, which cannot be done by professional services before the individual is venerable for age.

Dr. Joseph E. Cox, and his nephew, Robert C. Traylor, left Petersburg, Va., on Sunday afternoon, 25th ult., for the purpose of visiting the father of the former. The storm was raging fearfully, but they reached the residence of Dr. Grymes, son-in-law of Dr. Cox, in Chesterfield County, about 24 miles from Petersburg, just before night. An effort was made to prevail on them to remain till morning, but Dr. Cox insisted on going forward at once. They had proceeded only about one hundred yards when the buggy broke down, and Dr. Cox got out to repair the damage, and started for the house to procure assistance; but his progress was cut off by the snow drifts, and he had no alternative but to remain there all night. On Monday some persons at the house saw the buggy, and went to ascertain what was the matter. They came upon Dr. Cox lying insensible in the snow, and on proceeding to the buggy, found Mr. Traylor also in a hopeless condition. Dr. Cox died in about an hour. Mr. Traylor's limbs were frozen, and if he recovers at all he will have to suffer amputation of his hands and feet.

LIVING WITHOUT SLEEP.—As far back as about 1843, or perhaps later, a Scotch gentleman was residing at the Malboro' hotel, in Boston, who communicated a paper for publication, in which he declared he had not slept for some years. Being a man of education and high intelligence, we could not gainsay what he stated. We afterwards met him in Edinburgh in 1850. He was then in fine health, but still suffered for want of sleep. A few weeks since he again arrived in Boston, called to renew the acquaintance, and still being as sleepless as ever, promised to continue the history of his condition through all the nervous phases to the present period. Business demanded his presence in Canada West, from whence a pleasant letter was received from him a short time ago. On his return to Boston early in the spring, we are hoping to be furnished with a narrative from himself, which, physiologically considered, will contain some curious and unexplained phenomena.

FEMALE PHYSICIANS IN BOSTON.—There are not far from twenty of them,—and several are in excellent business. They confine themselves generally to midwifery and the diseases of their own sex. Their success in the former branch tends to establish them firmly in families. The number will probably be gradually on the increase since they are beginning to be employed in the neighboring cities of Charlestown, Cambridge, Roxbury and adjacent towns much more than formerly.

MARRIAGES.

In Winston county, Mississippi, John. T. Suttle, M. D., to M. L. Pettigree.

Dr. I. D. Mansfield, of South Reading, Mass., to Miss S. Merrill.

DEATHS.

In Boston, Edward Payson, only son of M. C. Greene, M. D., 17 yrs.

At Chicopee Falls, Mass., Dr. J. W. Lawrence, 50.

In Madison, N. J., Dr. George Cole.

At Washington, D. C., Dr. Josiah Doane Weston, of Dalton, Mass., 47.

Dr. Tack Shackelford died at Courtland, Alabama, on Tuesday of last week, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. He participated in the Texan struggle for independence, and achieved a name for gallantry truly enviable.

In London, Andrew Ure, Esq., a celebrated author, chemist, &c., well known in every civilized country, by his scientific writings.

At Chelmsford, Eng., Dr. Geo. A. Gepp, senior fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and also senior member of the Livery of the Society of Apothecaries, 87.

DEATHS REPORTED AT THE CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 14.

Peter Healy, 15 mos., Margaret McCarty, 10 do., Michael W. Doyle, 17 do., Clarabel Wilson, 11 do., Charles G. Bidwell, 16 do., Honora McGrath, 12 do., Catherine Elwood, 12 do., James E. McKay, 5 do., Charles F. V. McCarty, 2 do., Francis Collins, 14 do., Andrew Collins, 18 do., Mark Edelman, 5 do., Herbert G. Chapin, 2 yrs., Joshua Sears, 65 do., Maria W. Henderson, 18 do., Margaret Garvey, 2 do., James Keller, 42 do., Ann Madden, 3 do., Mary Furber, 3 do., Charles Madden, 21 do., Mathias Kelly, 6 do., Susannah Siders, 82 do., Wm. I. Remick, 8 do., Mary Pratt, 85 do., Jacob F. Stodder, 56 do., Catherine Lawton, 26 do., Honora Mortal, 3 do., David N. Higgins, 16 do., Julia Randels, 2 do., John Hurley, 32 do., Mary French, 75 do., Edward J. Keeler, 2 do., Rebecca Austin, 90 do., Matilda Readdy, 30 do., Rose Cook, 40 do., Effie L. Holden, 4 do., Ellen Croston, 5 do., Ellen M. Tucker, 4 mos., Mary Pond, 9 do., Eugene Owens, 11 do., Geo. T. Mason, 13 do., Wm. Egan, 12 do., Margaret Mullin, 18 do., Mary A. McLaughlin, 15 do., Matthew Murray, 1 day, Elizabeth Hart, 6 yrs., Honora Egan, 3 do., Sarah McLaughlin, 2 do., Julia F. Goodwin, 2 do., Margaret Wright, 2 do., Sarah W. Baker, 93 do., Ellen Craston, 5 do., James J. Power, 32 do., Nicholas Blosser, 30 do., Patrick Harrigan, 45 do., Jehiel C. Deman, 17 do., John Griffin, 50 do., Henry Condon, 4 do., Catherine Devine, 33 do., Henry A. Holman, 2 do., Philip Lyman, 55 do., Ellen Noonan, 40 do., Ann Cull, 34 do., Charles H. Stewart, 25 do., Laura A. Dunbar, 29 do., Ellen Desmond, 25 do., Cornelius O'Neal 29 do., Mary A. S. Kehill, 2 do., Wm. Dooley, 2 mos., Wm. Egan, 13 do., Abby Hallahan, 14 do., Lewis Tanner, 10 do., Margaret L. Ward, 2 do., Wm. H. Scott, 3 days, Lucella Haslam, 42 yrs., Rosetta Green, 5 do., Joanna Morrison, 18 do., Chas. F. Rice, 40 do., Thos. Le Ray, 64 do., Ellen Desmond, 30 do., John Wood, 40 do.

DISEASES.—Burned, 2, consumption, 18, croup, 2, dropsy in head, 3, infantile diseases, 2, unknown diseases, 4, typhoid fever, 2, scarlet do., 19, disease of heart, 2, inflammation of lungs, 8, old age, 4, teething, 5, other diseases, 1 each, 9. Total, 80. Males, 39, females, 41. 60 were born in United States, 15 in Ireland, 2 in British Provinces, and 3 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

MARCH 4, 1857.

NUMBER 23.

DR. ANDREW URE, F. R. S.

Dr. Ure, one of the veterans of chemical science, a contemporary of Davy and Wallaston, of Gay Lussac and Berzelius, died on the 2d inst., after a few days' illness, at the age of 78. His name is associated with some original and remarkable researches, but he will be chiefly distinguished in the annals of science by his success in the application of chemistry to the arts and to manufactures. In this special department, both as a teacher and as a writer, he was unrivalled; and with beneficial results not confined to his own country. It was in consequence of an official report, by M. (afterwards Baron) Charles Dupin, to the French Government, on the influence of Dr. Ure's tuition on the manufactures of Glasgow, that new courses of lectures on the same plan were instituted at the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers, in Paris; one course "Sur la Mécanique Appliquée," under M. Charles Dupin, and another, "Sur la Chimie Appliquée," under M. Clement Desormes. Dr. Ure had then for many years superintended the practical school of chemistry at the Andersonian University of Glasgow, his class at one time numbering above four hundred. The fruits of this tuition will be best appreciated from the words of Baron Dupin's report. "L'Institution Andersonienne a produit des résultats étonnans. C'est une chose admirable que de voir aujourd'hui dans beaucoup d'ateliers de Glasgow, de simples ouvriers posséder et développer au besoin les principes de leurs opérations, et les moyens théorétiques d'arriver aux résultats pratiques les plus parfaits possibles. Le principal Professeur de l'Institution Andersonienne, le Docteur Ure, m'a conduit lui-même dans toutes les manufactures importantes, et dont un grand nombre sont dirigés par ses élèves." This was in 1817. The teaching of the application of chemistry to the arts has since been intro-

duced into almost every university and into many public institutions. To Dr. Ure belongs the honor of having taken the lead in a movement which has had incalculable influence in developing national wealth, and promoting the interests both of science and art. The influence which in early life he exerted as a teacher he continued in later years as an author. His "Dictionary of Chemistry," and his "Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures, and Mines," have passed through many editions, and have been translated into the leading continental languages. No works have done more for directing and extending the applications of science to the ordinary uses of life.

Dr. Andrew Ure was born at Glasgow, May 18, 1778. He studied at the university of his native town, and afterwards at that of Edinburgh. He took his doctorate in medicine at Glasgow in 1801, having previously obtained the degree of Master of Arts. In 1804 he was appointed Professor of Chemistry at the Andersonian University, which had recently been established under the presidency of Dr. Birkbeck. In 1809, when the Glasgow Observatory was about to be established, Dr. Ure came to London, commissioned to make the scientific arrangements. Here he met and acquired the friendship of Maskelyne, Pond, Groombridge, and other astronomers, and also of Davy, Wollaston, Henry, and other distinguished chemists of that day. He was introduced to Troughton by Colonel, now Sir T. Brisbane, the President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. At the Glasgow Observatory, where Dr. Ure resided for several years, he was honored with a most friendly visit by Sir William Herschel. In 1818, a paper was read before the Royal Society, and published in the "Philosophical Transactions" for that year—"New experimental researches on some of the leading doctrines of caloric, particularly on the relation between the elasticity, temperature, and latent heat of different vapors, and on thermometric admeasurement

and capacity." The conclusions of this paper were adopted by Mr. Ivory, Mr. Daniell, and other philosophers, as the basis of their meteorological theories. A paper "On Sulphuric Acid, and the law of progression followed in its densities at different degrees of dilution," in the Journal of the Royal Institution, 1817, was remarkable as an example of the useful application of logarithms to chemistry. A physico-geometrical paper on Mean Specific Gravity appeared in the journal the same year, and in the next year experiments to determine the constitution of liquid nitric acid, and the law of progression of its density at various degrees of dilution. Dr. Ure's tables of these acids, the two most important of chemical agents, have been since generally adopted by chemists. In a paper on Saline Crystallization, the relation of voltaic electricity to that phenomenon was investigated for the first time. An account of some experiments with galvanism made on the body of a criminal immediately after execution, caused no little noise at the time, the rumor of which Byron has recorded in his "Don Juan." A paper in the "Philosophical Transactions," May, 1822, "On the Ultimate Analysis of Vegetable and Animal Substances," contains some of the earliest accurate researches in organic chemistry—a department which Dr. Ure considered was afterwards cultivated by some German chemists in a manner which justified the protest of Berzelius against what he called "the physics of probabilities." In a paper on Muriatic Acid and Chlorine, in the "Edinburgh Philosophical Transactions for 1818," Dr. Ure described the eudiometer which bears his name. These are but a few of the subjects in every department of chemical research, treated in a succession of papers that appeared in the various scientific journals. Among these were valuable Reports of foreign science, containing methodical digests of foreign discovery, including comments and comparisons with British science. In 1821 the Dictionary of Chemistry was first published, of which many editions have since appeared. In 1824 was published a translation of "Berthollet on Dyeing and Bleaching," in two octavo volumes; and in 1829 a new system of Geology. In 1830, Dr. Ure came to reside in London, and was appointed in 1834 chemist to the Board of Customs. The important researches on sugar refining, which he conducted for the government, led to the fixation of the then established duties. In 1835 he published "The Philosophy of Manufactures;" and in 1836, a work

on "The Cotton Manufactures of Great Britain compared with that of other countries." Mr. William Fairbairn, of Manchester, has stated that any person might easily make all the machines required for the cotton manufactures by the perusal of Dr. Ure's book,—a sufficient proof of the fulness and accuracy of the descriptions and illustrations.

The "Dictionary of Arts, Manufactures, and Mines," was first published in 1837, with a supplement two years later; the whole having been repeatedly revised to include the most recent discoveries and inventions, and greatly enlarged in the latest edition of 1853. This is a book of vast research, and the variety of subjects embraced in it may be estimated from the fact, that on the French translation it was thought advisable to employ nineteen *collaborateurs*, all regarded as adepts on their special subjects. Dr. Ure thus honorably occupied a position in scientific work analogous to the literary feat of Dr. Johnson, who, single-handed, produced his English Dictionary, the counterpart of which was the fruit of the united labors of the French Academy.

During his residence in London Dr. Ure's practical occupation in chemistry has chiefly been the conduct of analyses for the Government, or on consultation for commercial purposes. His skill and accuracy as an analytic chemist were well known, and it has been stated on good authority that none of his results have ever been impugned. From the beginning of his career he was noted as an experimental operator. We have seen a letter from the late Professor E. D. Clarke, of Cambridge, in which, writing to Dr. Ure in 1822, he says—"I wish very much you had examined the small quantity of gas which you collected from Plutonium. It remained on my table long after we lost you, to the regret of all who saw it; because the experiment required a hand like yours, and we could do nothing with it."

Although in infirm health for some years past, Dr. Ure retained his mental energy, and his conversation was always most interesting and instructive. His information was not confined to scientific subjects. He was a good linguist, and a fair classical scholar; deeply read also in theology and biblical criticism; and well acquainted with foreign as well as English literature. Dr. Ure was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1822. He was one of the original Fellows of the Geological Society, and was a member of several scientific bodies in this country and abroad.

SCIENTIFIC TESTIMONY.

Two weeks since a synopsis of the evidence presented on the trial of Cook, in England, was given, to show the skill of modern chemists in critical analysis. Here follows the testimony of professional gentlemen in New York, in reference to blood found on certain garments, &c., in the house where the awful tragedy was perpetrated. The science displayed in their researches is in the highest degree creditable to them.

We, the undersigned, appointed by the Coroner and Jury to examine chemically and microscopically certain articles found in the house at Bond street, in reference to their connection with the death of Dr. Harvey Burdell, viz.: stains resembling blood upon a small dagger, on sundry articles of wearing apparel, a sheet, a towel, matting, oil cloth, door knob, stair rods, &c. &c., respectfully report the following results:—

The dagger was first examined, and the blade found slightly stained near the hilt, but the woollen lining of the guard, though in contact with the spots, showed no appearance of blood. Neither the smooth surfaces of the ivory handle nor the creases between the turnings of the same, exhibited traces of blood—nor probably could any have been removed by washing, for the particles of dust, found at the bottom of said creases, appeared of long standing.

The spots, though trivial in amount, were carefully removed from the blade, and subjected to chemical analysis; they yielded abundant precipitates characteristic of iron, but did not answer to the distinctive tests for blood.

They were also repeatedly examined with the microscope; no blood discs could be detected, but the particles presented on comparison with ordinary iron rust the same angular outline. A small knife, known to surgeons as a French cistoury, was inspected, but presented no suspicious appearances.

The stains on the towels, night-caps, marked shirt, blue and white dress, sheet, and also the spots on the matting in the closet where the above mentioned stained clothes were found, responded to the chemical tests for blood discs and nucleated epithelial scales in abundance.

The stains on the outside door knob of the unoccupied room on the same floor, and on the stair-rods from the flights leading from the second story to the attic, yielded similar results.

Streaks simulating blood, on a blue silk dress, found in the attic, were discovered by a chemical analysis to contain sugar, but no blood could be detected; the microscope also proved its absence. Stains on a small book found in the parlor, furnished by a juror, did not answer to the chemical or microscopical tests for blood.

The stains upon a newspaper (*Herald*, of Saturday, January 31st, 1857,) found around books in Eckel's secretary, proved by chemical analysis to be blood, under the microscope, showed altered blood discs differing from those upon the other articles examined in presenting a less average diameter.

The stains upon the butcher knife, bought from Stanton street, exhibited similar appearances to those found upon the newspaper.

All that could be procured by the commission of the garments of Eckel and the Cunningham ladies, including boots and shoes, were carefully scrutinized, but no blood could be found.

The table cutlery was examined, but no evidence in the shape of stains could be found.

Sundry half-burned scraps of paper and a small piece of coarse cloth from the grate of the unoccupied attic room were inspected, but no spots of blood were discovered.

The siftings of the ashes from the cellar, comprising parts of pamphlets, letters, bits of paper, fragments of carpets, rags, etc., were examined with care, but furnished nothing requiring further investigation.

Spots were found on the outside of the door of the room where the body of the deceased was discovered, one near the knob, and another, on the strip between the panels of the same, also, a dense streak on the outside of the casing of said door, on the left hand going out, commencing nearly two feet above the floor; also spots on the first and second panels of the painted wall, on descending the short flight of stairs; another spot on the second panel from the window, below the platform; also a smear on the same, and on the third panel, a streak, about four feet above the steps.

Again, a stain on the inside edge of the inner hall door, another on the outer margin of the front door, and a corresponding spot upon the moulding opposite to the edge of the door.

These were each examined separately and found to be blood stains. Each was also repeatedly inspected with the microscope, and discovered to contain blood discs, without epithelial scales.

Another spot on the wall near the base of the first "style" behind the back parlor door; a

large spot on the oil cloth, about two feet from the banisters of the basement stairs; on the left side, descending said stairs about two feet above the fifth step from the last, a streak, as though wiped upwards, and lastly a streak two inches long on the frame of the door of said stairs, near the hinges, about three feet from the bottom.

Conclusions.—From the chemical analysis, and from the microscopical examinations, we infer that the stains on the dagger were of iron rust.

The blood stains on the towel, night gown, marked shirt, blue and white dress, sheet; also on the matting of the attic closet, where these articles were found; on the door knob of unoccupied room in the attic, and on the stair rods leading from the second story to the attic—all contain nucleated epithelial scales, many of them in abundance, from which we infer that all the above specimens were menstrual blood.

The marks on the blue silk dress, and in the small book from the parlor, were not blood.

The blood stains upon the newspaper found around the books in Eckel's secretary, and on the butcher-knife from Stanton street, by repeated comparisons with those on the clothing of deceased, render it probable that they were not stains of Dr. Burdell's blood.

The stains on the door of the room where the deceased was found, on the walls leading down stairs, on the front doors, also on the wall near the back parlor door, on the oil cloth at the head of the basement stairs, and on the door at the foot of the same, were probably pure blood.

The Commissioners obtained, with the concurrence of the Coroner, the valuable assistance of Prof. Fordyce Barker, M. D., in making the distinction between menstrual fluid and pure blood—to whom they wish to express their indebtedness.

Accurate copies of the microscopical appearances of the different objects examined were drawn by Mr. A. Berghaus, artist, and

The Commission desire to acknowledge their obligations to Mr. Adam Zencher for his assistance in the chemical analysis, and to Mr. Phelps, (student of medicine) for his obligingly rendered service.

R. OGDEN DOREMUS, M. D.
GEORGE GOURLAY, M. D.
L. L. CHILDS, M. D.
PETER VAN BUREN, M. D.

Other physicians were examined to give

their opinion over different matters connected with the inquiry, but all came to about the same conclusion as Dr. Wood.

MENTAL AND MORAL QUALIFICATIONS OF A PHYSICIAN.

Spectators see whatever transpires on the stage, better than those who are performing. The people watch the movements of the medical profession with critical exactness. They perceive the failings as well as the best qualities of individuals. And it is morally certain that physicians who have secured a reputation for kindness, are generally successful.

Mr. Greely's address at the Berkshire Medical College, exhibits a chart that may be profitably studied by those who are ambitious of being honored for the good they may do.

I. A physician should have common sense. And I make a statement so perfectly obvious, simply because the possession is so essentially important.

Now, this common sense is not so common, after all! In the learned professions and in the business walks of life, you may find men that have minds most thoroughly stored with scientific truth—knowledge enough to make them eminent as statesmen, philosophers, orators, teachers, or leading men in the busy marts of commerce. You may find men that have enjoyed the highest privileges of discipline, and before whom the avenues to eminence seem open in the very ordering of events—men born unto blessings and opportunities—and yet they never really accomplish much that is great or good, either for themselves or others. There is a *tact*, a ready insight into things in their constituted relations and bearings, and an intuitive intelligence of the true method of doing what was supposed they might accomplish, which they have not got. There is a grand lack in them, and no schools nor colleges, nor professional training, can infuse this, which should first *underlie* all mere learning.

And yet who knows not that it has been said, (and we wish it were of them of old time only), of the stupidest son in the family, the man who tries other business and fails—"oh, he will do to make a *Minister* or a *Doctor*!" And who needs be told that such men have entered these high and solemnly responsible professions as a sort of last resort?

You will find men, it is true, who not through mental imbecility but from failure of

health in one profession go over to another, and with their habits of study and observation, their aptness to acquire, and by some previous interest and taste, become ordinarily successful in a new field, entered thus late in life. But, let it be set down as a truth, not only undeniable but of exceeding importance, that in the duties of the medical profession a man's *original aptness*, prior to all training, ought to be carefully considered.

If it were merely the manual labors of the mechanic, or any of the thousand channels through which energy flows for the one end of making money, then it would not be of so vast importance. But here is a vocation whose every specific plan or act takes hold on life. It deals with that great mystery divinely *infused*, and acting through organic matter, which, though easily destroyed, no human power can re-establish. It is a profession which, in its dealings with life, is liable at any hour or moment to the most sudden emergencies. Diseases become mysteriously complicated—changes transpire where all seemed hopeful, so unlooked-for, and demanding a change of treatment so prompt, so intelligent, that a man who has not resources in himself, is as powerless and useless as a child. He sees the enemy under a new stratagem, storming the very citadel of life, and, alas! with all his learning, he knows not what to do. When needed most, he cannot command it!

II. For all the duties of his profession, the medical man should cultivate magnanimity of soul. I mean by this, that enlargement and just balance of mind which shall save him from crystallizing or moving in the narrow circle of a few ideas only. The science he carries out in practice, like all science, has grown up by accessions—the fruit of discovery and experiments for ages. Its principles are laid down by medical authors—its theories have been advanced—exploded here and confirmed there, till the system presents itself as we find it in the present enlightened age. It has been built up by men of zeal, of industry, of research. Why shall not the humblest, yea, even the obscurest student make new discoveries still? Why shall all that is written in the books satisfy his ambition or benevolence towards his race *because* it is written, and by great men? And here we come again upon the need of common sense and thorough culture. Diseases well understood and treated of in the books, change their type in the progress of time, and under the influences of climate and numerous circumstances of their

locality. I suppose it must be true that renowned professors and writers on various forms of disease, and of their treatment in the kingdoms of Europe, would not be the true and safe guides in many particulars, as it respects the same diseases in America. English law is the grand basis of common law with us, but English law is not the legal practice of the United States. So in medicine; we have our diseases, and each section of our vast country has its local diseases. We have our *materia medica*—the rich furnishing of the Divine benevolence to soothe our pains and prolong our life. We have, especially in this New England, and in this wonderful period of curious inventions, an unceasing succession of contrivances brought to light for humanity's relief. Why shall it not be looked for and studied after by any member of the profession, to bring forth himself some yet untried, but all-important discovery or invention? It has been said of the truly liberal scholar, "Books are his friends, but not his master. When he has come up to them, he has no farther use for them. As guides and stepping-stones they have aided him thus far, let him now go onward."

HOOPING-COUGH.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Dr. Graily Hewitt exhibited the lungs of four children who died of hooping-cough. The specimens now presented consist of the lungs of four children, who have recently died in the St. Marylebone Infirmary and Workhouse, from hooping-cough, under the care of Mr. Filliter. They are illustrative of the lesions which will in almost all cases be found to be associated with the disease, and all exhibit one peculiar lesion in a greater or less degree. In these cases certain portions of the lungs will be found, on examination, to present that condition formerly known as lobular pneumonia, but which now is ascertained to be in reality collapse of the lung substance, without necessarily inflammation of the parenchyma of the lung itself. Particulars of four fatal cases of hooping-cough were then read, together with an account of the post-mortem appearances in each case, of which the following is an abstract:—

In Case 1, that of a child aged sixteen months, there was collapse of portions of both lungs, with emphysema and subpleural ecchy-

mosis, some of the collapsed portions presenting minute bronchial abscesses.

In Case 2, a child aged twelve months, there was collapse of the lungs, the right middle lobe being quite collapsed, together with the catarrhal or vesicular pneumonia of Legendre and Bailly, and slight depositions of tubercle in one lobe.

In Case 3, a child aged eleven months, there was partial collapse of the lungs, together with double pleurisy and catarrhal pneumonia. Ulceration and inflammation of the Peyerian and solitary glands of the ileum were also noticed.

In Case 4, a child aged fourteen months, collapse of the lungs was also present, with a few bronchial abscesses. This case presented a pathological condition in other respects interesting. The gastric fluid had, after death, perforated the œsophagus one inch above the cardiac orifice of the stomach, and escaping into the left pleura, had eroded the posterior and upper part of the left lung.

In all the cases, slight enlargement of the bronchial glands was observed. The bronchial tubes, especially the smaller divisions, were always filled with a thickish muco-purulent fluid. Emphysema of the lungs always co-existed with collapse of the lung tissue.

Remarks.—The points of interest in these cases may be now briefly recapitulated. The subjects were all infants of tender age—from ten to sixteen months old. The collapse of the lungs was found. It presented for the most part the usual characters, and with it was associated emphysema of the neighboring lobes or lobules. This is an important fact, as related to the physical examination of the chest during life. Small bronchial abscesses were also present in most of the cases. The history of these cases during life illustrates one or two points important to bear in mind with reference to hooping-cough in very young children. Only one of them was observed to hoop. So far as I have observed, the intensity and frequency of the hoop is a circumstance of good augury, rather than the reverse. The treatment adopted in these cases was of a stimulating character, mild expectorants, and ammonia, together with a little wine, and counter-irritation by means of blisters. The unfavorable hygienic conditions in which the children were placed, however, coupled with their tender age, precluded a favorable result. Death took place, on an average, about three weeks after the commencement of the disease.

Dr. Peacock exhibited a specimen of dis-

eased heart, forwarded to him by Dr. Thurnam, of the Wilts County Asylum. The heart was removed from a man, sixty-four years of age, who had been an inmate of the asylum for a few months, laboring under symptoms of melancholia, with suicidal tendency, and who had for years suffered from dyspnoea, lividity of the face, and other symptoms of cardiac disease. He died of double pneumonia at the end of the last year. The heart was much hypertrophied and dilated, weighing fifteen ounces and a half, and the cavity of the left ventricle was large, and its walls measured above an inch in thickness. There was very marked obstructive disease of the aortic orifice, dependent on congenital deficiency of the semilunar valves, there being only two segments. One of these was apparently formed by the fusion of two distinct valves, there being the remains of the usual frenum or band on the outer side. The segments were, however, nearly of the same size, and from the extensive thickening and ossification, the mode of origin of the malformation was less obvious than is frequently the case.

Dr. Gibb exhibited specimens of lobar pneumonia of the whole of the left lung, and disseminated carnification with emphysema of the right lung, from an infant. The child, eight months old, was attacked with capillary bronchitis ten weeks before death, which lapsed into pneumonia of the entire left lung. The cough, although at first loud, was not paroxysmal, and there were no symptoms whatever of pertussal disease. At the autopsy, the left lung was found completely solidified, in a state of true hepatization, with the exception of a small portion, the size of a marble, which was emphysematous. The right lung was affected with interlobular emphysema in various parts; its middle lobe was carnified, (not hepatized.) This condition was also present in the middle of the upper lobe, at its apex, and at its anterior part—in three distinct situations. Between the affected portions of lung, the emphysema was well marked. Inflation produced no effect on the left lung, nor upon the carnified portions of the right lung. The muscular fibres of the trachea and bronchia were normal. The interest of the case consisted in the whole of one lung being affected with inflammation, a condition by no means uncommon in infants, but denied by some writers; and the presence of carnification in the opposite lung, associated with emphysema. Carnification is believed by some very recent writers to be almost exclusively the consequence of pertussal disease,

whereas it is a condition very common in children suffering from chest affections generally, who may not have died of pertussis, nor ever have been affected with that disease.

HORRORS OF ASIATIC CHOLERA.

Had the accompanying horrible account of feeding swine come through any other source of intelligence than the London Lancet, it might have been disbelieved. There is no calculating to what it may ultimately lead if European and American seamen have their rations of pork thus fattened on human bodies that died of an East India plague. That the English authorities permit either the exposure of victims of the pestilence, to tempt the omniverous appetite of herds of roving swine, or allow them to be used for human food, is not only extraordinary, but abominable.

The legend which ascribes to the eating of human flesh the origin of one of the most loathsome of diseases, scarce offers a more horrible picture to the imagination than is presented by a letter in the *Ceylon Examiner* of October. The last accounts inform us that this scourge has also devastated the beautiful islands of Mauritius and Bourbon. These islands are largely supplied with pork from Patna, a province of Hindostan that has itself been overrun by the cholera. Both there and at Calcutta the bodies of the natives are consigned to the Ganges, instead of being interred. "Let any person," says the writer in the Ceylon paper, "at daybreak start from the gates of Government House, Calcutta; and whether his walk be on the banks of the river, or to the banks of the canals, which on three sides surround the city, he will see pigs feeding on the dead bodies of the natives that have been thrown there during the night; during the day the river police clear away and sink all that remain of the bodies. Bad as is the metropolis of India, it is nothing compared to Patna. . . . Hundreds upon hundreds of human corpses are there strewed along the strand; and fattening, Ghoul-like, upon these, are droves upon droves of swine. These swine are slaughtered, cut up and salted into hams, bacon, and pickled pork, and then despatched to Calcutta. . . . The great market for this poisonous swine-produce in the Mauritius and Bourbon," where it is foisted on the inhabitants as the produce of Europe. Moreover, as these swine are sold in Calcutta at three or four shillings each carcass, it is stated that the

inferior class of homeward-bound vessels are provisioned with them, and thus this human-fled pork is introduced into Europe and America.

ON UTERINE HYDATIDS.

BY A. HOUGHTON, M. D., OF NEW YORK.

The term *Hydatids* has even up to the present time, quite an indefinite meaning, for, notwithstanding the *true* etymological signification of the two Greek words from which the term is derived, (translated "*Vesicula and Aqua*,"") it has, it appears, in descriptive pathology, an indiscriminate application to pellucid *cysts*, containing a transparent fluid, in cavities, and various tissues of the human body, and in inferior animals; and also to those *cysts*, the structure of which by examination are found to differ, and supposed to possess the characteristics of animal life; consequently the term has been adopted, as the name of an order of animalcules of several genera and species.

The records of medicine afford abundant evidence of the occurrence of these vesicular formations in the human body. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, adverts to them, but only under the vague and general application of the word "growth." He was probably aware of their occurrence in man, as well as in inferior animals, though it seems somewhat singular, that he should have only observed the presence in the chest, a part of the body seldom occupied by them, and usually considered simply as *cysts*.

Many other ancient writers on medicine recognized these morbid growths, but it is evident that they had no clear ideas of their origin or nature.

The idea of the animalcular nature of hydatids was first broached by Hartman in 1685, and was the result of experiments, instituted on those taken from inferior animals, suggested by observing their motions when immersed in warm water. Tyson, Cuvier, Linnæus and many other naturalists, arrived at the same conclusions, and the hypothesis of the insect nature of these formations, derived additional weight from the investigations and observations of Dr. John Hunter.

But whether we regard these as morbid products endowed with the mere organic life of parts with which they are found in contact, or possessing distinct animal life, appropriating the term "*true hydatid*" to those possessing

animal life, and to other pellucid cysts, or products, "*false*," is practically of little or no importance.

That the production of these morbid growths in cavities and tissues of the human body is quite rare,—that the diagnosis is obscure, and often difficult,—that the prognosis is consequently unfavorable, and the treatment not always successful, is admitted by most authors and physicians of the allopathic school of medicine.

Having had recently a case of *uterine hydatids* under my care, the history and details of treatment may possibly convey some facts of practical interest to the profession, and accordingly I submit this report.

On the 10th of July I was requested to visit Mrs. W—— of this city, aged 31, mother of six children, five living, and having in her first and third pregnancies aborted at the third month; the youngest child is about four years of age. Her menstrual periods have always been regular up to the middle of October last, and its subsequent disappearance is attributed to conception; since February she has had a daily uterine discharge, generally exsanguineous, but sometimes quite red, the quantity is influenced by moral and physical causes. In March, April and May, had nausea, and morning vomitings, and was incommoded by many of the usual early signs of pregnancy. Her general health is impaired; she is emaciated, with loss of appetite, and a train of dyspeptic troubles. She is greatly annoyed with pains in the lumbar, ovarian, and pubic regions. The uterine contractions are sometimes quite strong, but there are no expulsive efforts; but an increased discharge usually at these times, of a deeper color.

These uterine discharges are sometimes ichorous in character, excoriating the vaginal parts. She is anxious concerning herself, at times impatient and quite irritable.

An external examination of the abdomen discloses a well-defined, round, and central tumor; it reaches from the pubis to considerably above the umbilicus; it is soft, fluctuating, and quite unlike the firm consistence of a healthy pregnancy; for although the umbilicus is prominent, the abdominal integuments are not tense, as is usual in such cases.

Internally the os-uteri is soft, supple and open, freely admitting the first phalanx of my fore-finger; there is a peculiar velvet-like feel about the os, which is characteristic of chronic metritis, and ulcerations of that organ. The cervix appears well developed, and has lost

some of its length; there is some bleeding; the body of the uterus is balloon-shaped, and I can easily raise it, by pressure on the cervix; the walls, os and cervix, by speculum examination appear healthy.

No appreciable disease of any portion of the organ. I cannot displace the uterine contents by pressure, or discover any signs of foetal movements. The size of the abdomen is fully that of seventh month of utero-gestation.

The bulk of the uterus, the daily uterine discharges and their peculiar character, the soft open state of the os, the want of firmness of the walls of the uterus, and the absence now, and up to this time, of any foetal movements, convince me that if impregnation has taken place, it is destroyed by some morbid growth, probably hydatids.

I enjoined rest, and a strictly recumbent posture, *Bell.* and *Ipecac.* to arrest hæmorrhage and abate local pains.

July 12th, relieved; less discharge, intervals of relief from pain; to continue remedies, at lengthened intervals.

14th. Has had occasional pains in the uterus, confined to the circular fibres of its walls, and it is succeeded by a sanguineous discharge; take Puls. 6th, every second hour until relieved.

15th. More comfortable; continue remedy.

16th. Relieved; attending to some domestic duties, but the constant drain her system has undergone for months past, has greatly enfeebled her; and I await with considerable solicitude, the ultimate result of this case. Ordered quietude, and the recumbent posture as much as possible. She continued quite comfortable up to 23d ult., when contrary to advice, she visited Brooklyn, and on return was seized with pains and profuse uterine hæmorrhage; during the night passed several large coagula.

24th. Was called early, found on examination, that several large placental-like masses had passed during the night, which on inspection, appeared thickly covered with minute vesicles, globular in form, and transparent; there was considerable hæmorrhage, although the uterine walls were quite firm; some nausea and fainting; gave *Secale* and *Ipecac.*, alternately every hour until hæmorrhage ceased.

25th. Relieved; slight uterine discharge, and the uterine walls are less firm; there is a constant aching in the sacrum, and piercing, shock-like pains through the pubic region. Gave Puls. to be taken every hour.

4 P. M. Decided uterine efforts, regular, but not strong; she is restless; the extremities are cold, pulse 100, feeble; [surface perspiring, thirst, and frequent alvine discharges. *Secale* in appreciable doses every half hour, and hot applications to extremities. After the fourth dose of *Secale* the pains became more efficient and the alvine discharge ceased; responding action satisfactorily established, but on examination the os-uteri is closed, but slightly dilatable. Suspend medication.

26th, 3 o'clock, A. M. Summoned in haste; found uterine efforts had been powerful, but not frequent; hæmorrhage now terrific; countenance ghastly; incoherent mutterings; was pulseless, and the powers of life at its lowest ebb. *Ice* to the uterine region; friction and hot embrocations to the lower extremities and the tampon. In due time aroused her from her perilous state; *Secale* and Brandy were now freely administered, and the specific action of the remedies in due time was manifest. The tampon being displaced, the os was found freely dilated, and a conical-shaped mass protruding, but the pains failing to disengage it, the hand was passed up to the fundus of the uterus, and brought away its contents, which proved to be *hydatids*, filling an ordinary chamber-pot; the vesicles large, transparent and arranged on peduncles, with a substance closely resembling placenta as a base of attachment. For a period of twelve hours succeeding delivery, there were occasional pains, followed by expulsion of large detached *hydatids*, with trifling hæmorrhage.

27th. Comfortable; some sensibility over the uterine region, and signs of syncope, pulse 87, soft, not full, tongue clear, apex and edges red; some thirst, face flushed, and cerebral disturbance. Bell. ordered.

28th. Symptoms better; complains of nothing but "weakness;" no medicines; ordered wine whey in pearl barley every second hour.

29th, at 2 o'clock. This morning she was attacked with chills, continuing about one hour, followed by fever, and great cerebral troubles; she is restless, delirious, and at lucid intervals despairs of recovery. Pulse frequent, wiry, 130, extremities cold, face flushed, head hot and painful, great sensibility upon the least pressure over the uterine region, with pain upon least movement, particularly above and behind the pubis. It radiates into the ovarian region, and down the thighs; there is an aching sensation in the lumbar and lumbodorsal region; slight pressure does not,

however, materially aggravate the deep-seated pain, even when made over the pubis; a digital examination shows the vagina dry, hot, and an absence of secretions; the cervix is sensitive to touch, the uterine body enlarged, and any attempt to move it exquisitely painful.

I diagnose acute metritis. Take Bell. and Bry. alternately every hour, hot applications to the lower extremities, napkins dipped in hot water, lightly placed over the pubic region.

30th. Symptoms more favorable, slept some during the night, and urinated twice, less pain, and sensibility over the pubis, pulse 90, fuller and soft, skin perspiring, cool and adhesive; has called for food; moral condition improved. Take Bry. and *Mercurius*, alternately every third hour, and to continue the local applications.

31st. Continued improvement; remedies same as last report, at intervals of two hours.

August 1st and 2d. Still improving, continue remedies at lengthened intervals, diet a liberal allowance.

3d. Convalescing; complains of nothing but debility, diet liberal, and once in three hours weak wine whey. The patient continued to improve, the lacteal secretion was duly established, when on the 6th ult., she was attacked with dysentery, which retarded her recovery for some days, but at present, August 27th, her health is fully established.

A Short Body and Long Life.—Speaking of the Rev. Am. Davies, rector Staunton-upon-Wyed, who died in 1790 at the age of one hundred and five years,—who had no disease of any kind, save poor vision,—the London Quarterly says: "like most long livers, he was very short of stature." The old rector made a hearty breakfast of hot rolls, well buttered,—with a large supply of tea and coffee. His dinner was substantial, and frequently consisted of a variety of dishes. At supper he ate hot roast meat, and always drank wine, but never to excess. He died peaceably, in the full possession of all his faculties, mental and corporeal.

A Huge Woman.—Oceana, the largest limbed woman in the world, is now in the museum at New Orleans. She weighs 515 pounds, is 9 feet 2 inches in circumference, measures 29 inches round the arm, and 38 around the calf of the leg, and wears No. 3 shoes. She hails from Kentucky.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

CASES OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

Translated from the German by H. L. H. Hoffendahl, M. D.

PNEUMONIA.

By Dr. Teller, of Prague.

(From the Zeitschrift für Hom. Klinik.)

The greater part, if not all Homœopathic practitioners, have probably gained the experience that, in the great majority of cases of pneumonia, *aconite* and *phosphorus* are the only remedies required for successful treatment. I shall therefore pass over all those cases in which these two remedies alone were used, and only give a report of such cases as are interesting from some complication, or some peculiarity in their course.

Case I. I was called one evening to an old lady 72 years of age, who had long been suffering from ulcers of the legs. I found the patient lying in bed; she had an icteric tinge, and complained of oppression over the chest, which was increased every time that she vomited. The vomiting had continued nearly all day, at intervals of about an hour, and was accompanied by heat and great thirst. The evening before she had had chills. The patient referred the cause of her sickness to a violent altercation with her servant, and believed that this person had given her poison, and that this was the cause of her vomiting. She would not believe that she had an inflammation of the lungs, since she had not the slightest cough. I was obliged to be of a different opinion, from the following symptoms: feeling of great oppression in the left side of the thorax, increased frequency of the respiration, dull and empty sound on percussion between the second and fifth ribs of the left side, crepitant and sub-crepitant râles, and consonance of the voice on the same side, violent fever with oppressive headache, high-colored and sedimentitious urine. All these symptoms authorized me in forming the diagnosis of *Pneumonia crouposa* in the second stage, notwithstanding the absence of the rusty-colored or bloody sputa which generally accompany this disease.

Prescribed *Aconite*, 6th dilution, 8 drops in about six ounces of water, one teaspoonful every half hour.

On the second and third day there was no

change except a gradual diminution of the vomiting, which now occurred only when the patient moved her body. The same treatment was continued.

On the fourth day the appearances might easily have led one to mistake the case for one of typhus. The patient lay in an apathetic, half somnolent and delirious state, the head was somewhat oppressed, the tongue was dry and there was great thirst. The feeling of oppression in the chest had somewhat diminished, but the patient now complained of violent piercing pain in the left side. The sound on percussion was still dull and empty, and auscultation revealed distinct sub-cupitant râles. The patient now began to cough occasionally, and with great difficulty expectorated a small quantity of tough, yellow, stringy sputa. The bowels had been confined for two days. The urine was still highly colored, and contained copious sediment; the pulse was 98; the skin still retained its icteric hue.

Prescribed *Bryonia*, 6th dilution. This remedy was continued for six days. During this time the pain in the chest gradually disappeared; the cough became more frequent and less difficult, it was looser, and a large quantity of yellowish sputa was expectorated; the febrile symptoms likewise diminished, as well as the dryness of the tongue, the thirst, and the constipation. The urine gradually became paler, and lost its sediment.

On the eleventh day the patient was in the following condition: a dull and heavy feeling in the limbs; sleep disturbed partly by cough, and partly by uneasy dreams; thirst very moderate, but the appetite still wanting. The oppression over the chest had almost disappeared, the cough was diminished, the expectoration was light gray and puriform; the dull, empty sound on percussion extended only over a small space on the left chest; sub-cupitant râles were still present, fæcal and urinary discharges normal, the icteric coloration almost gone; an eruption of herpes labialis about the mouth.

Prescribed *Rhus tox*, 3d dilution. In two days more the patient had improved so much that a slight œdema of the feet was the only symptom which prevented her from leaving her bed. During a practice of eighteen years I have noticed a similar œdema in every case of pneumonia attacking persons advanced in years; it was always the last troublesome symptom, and was never followed by any bad effects. After taking *Cinchona*, 1st dilution, for several days, the œdema disappeared, and

the patient could leave her bed. She first left the room on the 24th day of her sickness.

Case II was particularly interesting, because, without a careful examination, it might have been taken for a case of diaphragmitis.

The patient was a widow, 62 years of age, of slender build, who reported that she had had pericarditis many years ago, and that she had been bled a number of times for this and other diseases. On Feb. 8th, 1855, the fourth day of sickness, the patient complained of a feeling of oppression over the chest, and of a piercing pain in the right side, extending from the fourth to the tenth rib, which was almost unbearable, and increased with every breath. There was very difficult and frequent cough, with light-colored, tough expectoration. At every access of cough the patient was obliged to rise in bed, and press firmly with her hand in the right hypochondriac region; then expectoration would take place, accompanied by faintness and attempts at vomiting. The amount of sputa in the course of the day was enough to fill two coffee-cups. This difficult cough, as well as a frequent singultus, was very troublesome to the patient. Besides this, there were all the symptoms of a violent inflammatory fever. The objective symptoms were: dull sound on percussion of the whole left chest, from the third rib down to the region of the liver; over the same space there was sub-crepitant râle and consonance.

Diagnosis. Pneumonia of the right side, accompanied by inflammation of the pleura covering the right lung, as well as of the pleuritic covering of the diaphragm. There was also a diastolic cardiosouffle, but this had no influence on the disease, since it was present also in health, and was the size of a valvular lesion, which had been caused by previous disease.

The patient recovered, after the use of *Aconite*, *Bryonia*, *Phosphorus*, and *Arsenic*. Edema of the feet supervened just as in *Case I*, and disappeared again after using *Cinchona*. On March 20th, the patient could leave her room.

Case III. The patient, a tailor's apprentice, of tubercular diathesis, complained of a feeling of weight in his chest which prevented him from lying on either side, and which was accompanied by a slight dry cough. Physical examination revealed dull, empty sound on percussion, and somewhat indistinct sub-crepitant râle in the upper portions of both lungs. There was also considerable inflammatory fever, characterized by violent thirst, dry tongue, high-colored urine etc. The use of *Aconite*, for two

days diminished the fever, but the only change in the chest was that the sub-crepitant râle became more distinct, the cough still being dry.

Prescribed *Tart. emet.* 2d trituration, 1 grain dissolved in 4 ounces of water, and one teaspoonful given every hour. The cough now became more frequent and loose, with occasional expectoration of sputa cocta; but as the cough increased the patient had piercing pains during every access.

Phosphorus, 2d dilution, given in the usual manner, removed this symptom, and, improving gradually, the patient recovered entirely in five days.

REMARKS BY THE TRANSLATOR.

The articles which have recently appeared in this journal on the Homœopathic treatment of pneumonia have suggested to me the propriety of making a few remarks about the *Anti-phlogistic treatment*, which has hitherto been the usual treatment of the old school, in inflammations, and which has been considered particularly necessary in inflammatory affections of the lungs.

Fifty years ago, when Homœopathy was in its infancy, its practitioners were accused of criminally neglecting their patients in not having recourse to depletions, and the results of Homœopathic treatment, without depletion, were either treated with discredit, or entirely ignored.

At the present day the two schools occupy very different relative positions on this question. We find prominent men of the old school asserting, *just as homœopaths did 50 years ago*, that depletion is not only unnecessary, but often injurious. Modern physiologists tell us, first, that the cause of inflammation is not to be found in the blood, but in the capillary vessels and their nerves; and secondly, that venesection produces changes in the composition of the blood, which increase its tendency to exudation, and thus increase the gravity of the local lesion; and that consequently depletion is not the proper treatment for inflammation. These theoretical assumptions seem to be entirely confirmed by modern practice. It is well known that Skodap, Apolzer, of Vienna, and others of the so-called physiological school, have either discarded depletion entirely, or restricted it to the narrowest limits. But the most remarkable production of this new tendency of the old school is a work by Dr. Jos. Dietl,* a hospital physician of Vienna. He

**Depletion in Pneumonia*, clinically and physiologically considered, by Dr. Jos. Dietl, K. K. Primararzt, &c.

declares depletion in pneumonia to be not only unnecessary, but injurious and often the cause of death. He gives the following results of his treatment of pneumonia during 3 years.

He treated 85 cases with depletion; 68 recovered, 17 died, equal to 20.4 per ct. He treated 106 cases with tart. emet.; 84 recovered, 22 died, equal to 20.7 per ct. He treated 189 cases with dietetic or expectant treatment; of these 175 recovered, 14 died, equal to 4.12 per ct.

Dr. Dietl further shows that depletion favors hepatisation, and retards resolution; and that meningitis, pericarditis, œdema of the lungs and pleurisy are often the consequences of this mode of treatment. It would appear, therefore, that all this time Homœopathy has been in the right, and that all the accusations of inefficiency and faults of omission in the treatment of inflammatory diseases, which have been launched against its practitioners with no sparing hand, have been entirely undeserved.

But although the antiphlogistic treatment appears thus to have fallen into disrepute, many physicians of the old school still employ this method to some extent in inflammatory diseases. Thus, in a case of pneumonia, in a plethoric subject, with excessive constitutional disturbance, dyspnœa &c., they assert that depletion acts not as a curative agent, but as a palliative, which diminishes the amount of blood for a time, and thus allows the overloaded lungs to perform their functions more easily.

Depletion has been occasionally used in precisely this way, and for the same purpose, by the so-called *Rational Homœopaths*, a class of physicians who, some 25 years ago, refused to acquiesce in many of the minor theories and dogmas of Hahnemann, although they acknowledged the truth of the Homœopathic law of cure, and the importance of gaining a reliable knowledge of the action of drugs, by proving them on healthy subjects. But although the possible necessity of depletion in certain cases, and particularly in pneumonia, was thus recognized, still their other means of combating inflammation have proved so efficacious, that there are but a few isolated instances on record in Homœopathic literature, where depletion has been resorted to; and physicians who have no objections to using the lancet when they consider it necessary, generally find that years elapse before they are obliged to use this treatment in their practice.

It would therefore appear that a portion of

both the old and the new school believe the antiphlogistic treatment to be not a curative but a palliative in certain forms of pneumonia, while the rest of the two schools unite in believing that such a mode of treatment is never necessary in this disease. In other words we have an opportunity of observing the phenomenon, hitherto unprecedented, that after years of strife and opposition, *the two schools actually agree*, on one point at least.

The remedy which, in Homœopathic practice, has been generally substituted for the antiphlogistic treatment of the old school is *Aconite*. This drug is the one which is used in most cases to reduce the general, constitutional disturbance, and to control the inflammatory process at the diseased point. We cannot obtain a better explanation of its mode of action than by referring to some passages from the work on pneumonia by Dr. Klotar Müller.

"It has been shown by microscopic and other examinations of the nature of inflammation, that this process takes place in the capillaries. At first, in the stage of inflammatory congestion, we observe a contraction of the capillaries, and at the same time a more rapid motion of the blood which is passing through them. But soon exactly the reverse takes place, namely an expansion of the capillaries, and a retardation of the circulation. Gradually the movements of the blood, which so far have been regular, although retarded, become unequal; the blood flows forward and backward, oscillates, and finally it remains motionless, owing to the accumulation of blood-corpuscles, and then agglutination in the capillaries. At the same time some of the component parts of the blood, (at first the water and the salts,) pass through the relaxed walls of the capillaries; at some points also the vessels are ruptured, and thus exudations and extravasations are formed in the neighboring parenchyma."

"The process of the resolution of an inflammation takes place in the following order; at first the expanded vessels begin to contract; this causes an increased impulse of the blood from the arteries, and then there is irregular motion and oscillation of the arrested column of blood; then the blood corpuscles, which have become pale and round from the imbibition of serum, break up their mutual adherences, and gradually portions of the hitherto stationary mass are impelled into the neighboring capillaries; and thus the circulation is re-established."

"The whole process of inflammation therefore depends directly upon the condition of the

walls of the vessels, (upon their contraction and expansion,) and not, as was formerly supposed, upon the condition of the contents of these vessels, the blood. But the condition of the vascular walls is itself dependent upon the nerves that supply them, and it is therefore the influence of the nerves, which, first by an irritation, and subsequently by a relaxation or paralysis, affects the vessels, and thereby indirectly the motion of the blood, and thus produces all the objective appearances peculiar to inflammation.

"Inflammation is therefore produced by the irritation and subsequent paralyzed state of the vascular nerves. This assumption is sustained by a long array of facts, which show that lesions of certain nerves induce inflammation of the parts they supply. Thus *Magendie*, *Serres*, *Mayo* and others found that division of the trifacial nerve was followed by inflammatory symptoms in the eye, gums of the teeth and other parts; *Brachet* observed congestion and mucous accumulations in the stomach and lungs, after division of the par vagum, and similar effects in the kidneys after division of renal nerves; *Hausmann* obtained like results in dividing the nervi dorsales penis. Other phenomena which deserve mention in this connection are the appearances after division of the nerve in foundered horses; also the tendency to congestion and inflammation in parts that are imperfectly paralyzed, and during the general exhaustion of the nervous system in what is called the nervous stage of fevers. It cannot be doubted therefore that the first cause of inflammation is to be found in the depression or paralysis of the nerves of the capillaries; although it is still possible that there may be inflammations that depend upon other causes and factors."

"Now if we apply these axioms for the purpose of obtaining a reduction and cure of the inflammatory process by medicinal agents, we can arrive at some very important results.

In the first place it is evident that depletion, which was formerly considered the sovereign remedy, has either no curative effect, or at the best only a very indirect influence. This point needs no further discussion, since the general opinion is now decidedly against this mode of treatment, and practical experiment makes it fall more and more into discredit every day.* On the other hand the action of

Homœopathic remedies in inflammation admit of a very clear and natural explanation, which may perhaps assist in bringing about a better appreciation of the nature of the action of these remedies, and of the axiom *similia similibus*. Since, then, we know that inflammation consists in the inactivity or paralysis of the nerves of the capillaries, and the consequent dilation of these vessels; since we know, further, that during the resolution of inflammation these dilated vessels again contract and thus cause the arrested circulation to resume its course, then we are fully justified in the assumption that an irritating and stimulant action on these vascular nerves, will remove their inactivity or temporary paralysis, will incite contractions in the vascular walls, and thus bring about a resolution of the inflammation. Now experiment has shown by the physiological effects of many drugs, that they have a direct influence on certain nerves; that their primary effect on certain nervous centres and portions of nerves is to irritate or stimulate, but that later, or if given in too large doses, their action is to over-irritate, weaken or paralysis. It is also known that some of these drugs, such as *Aconite*, *Belladonna*, *Arnica*, *Bryonia*, *Mux Vomica*, *Phosphorus*, &c., have this irritating and paralyzing effect, either directly, or by antagonism and reflex action, upon the vascular nerves of certain; parts that is, they produce symptoms and appearances of inflammation specifically in certain parts. Now one of these remedies selected according to Homœopathic principles, to cure an inflammation being given, in a comparatively small dose, will only excite or stimulate the vascular nerve; that is, it will cause the vessels to contract, remove the dilatation and thus cure the inflammation or prevent its progress. This also explains why Homœopathic remedies must be given in comparatively small doses, since in large doses they would only aggravate the disease. This same principle is illustrated by the application of cold against inflammations, as has been done universally and effectually for centuries. It has been shown by microscopic examination, that cold applications on healthy parts first produce contraction of the capillaries and increased rapidity of the circulation, but later, the cold applications being continued, there is dilatation of the capillaries and arrest of the circulation, and thus we have all the signs of congestion and inflammation. (See "*Wagner's Physiologie*," Art:

*Thus last winter, in Prof. Oppolzer's clinique, only 3 venesections were made in 15 cases of pneumonia; in two cases there was evident alleviation, but this was soon followed by considerable aggravation. In the third case a simple pneumonia was almost immediately transformed in-

to a pneumonia duplex, with very grave symptoms.—S. C. Terzler, *dissertatio de pneumonia animadversiones clinice*. Lipsiæ, 1849.

Inflammation.) Cold therefore acts in inflammation on the same principle as Homœopathic remedies, and like them it cannot be applied too violently or too long without doing more harm than good."

"After a full appreciation of this mode of action of Homœopathic remedies, there appears to be nothing inexplicable or anomalous in the fact that diseases are cured by remedies which produce similar symptoms in the healthy organism. On the other hand a proper understanding of this law of similarity will prevent us from supposing that a remedy will cure a disease *only because* it produces similar or identical symptoms in health. On the contrary there must always be a certain difference, in most cases even a qualitative opposition between the action of the remedy and the disease, while at the same time there must be a complete identity as to the locality of this action. This is, in other words, the doctrine of the primary and secondary action of remedies.—For example, *Aconite* is a remedy which, from its primary or irritating action, and its secondary or paralyzing action on the vascular nerves, will produce first a contraction and then a dilatation of the capillaries. Nor in employing this remedy in an inflammatory process, where the capillaries are in a state of dilatation, we only need its irritating or contracting properties, (that is, its primary effect,) and therefore we do not give it in doses of a scruple or more, which would soon produce their paralyzing effect, and aggravate the disease; but we use drop doses or dilutions, and thus secure the primary action."

"Strictly speaking, what has been said about the cure of inflammation only refers to the first stage, the dilatation of the capillaries and arrest of the circulation, and is not applicable to the second stage, that of exudation; and it cannot be denied that the most striking Homœopathic cures have been performed during the first stage, when resolution could be effected. During the later stages such a sudden termination is, from the nature of things, impossible."

"In the present state of our knowledge it cannot be ascertained whether the action of Homœopathic remedies in other diseases is the same as in inflammation. But it is highly probable that an analogous process does take place, more especially since a similar antagonism of action, or so-called primary and secondary action, cannot fail to be recognized in many remedies such as *Opium*, *Digitalis*, wine, &c."—*Hom. Treatment of Pneumonia, by Dr. Klotar Muller, Hom. Vierteljahrschrift.*

ANCIENT PHYSICIANS OF CONNECTICUT.

Doctor THOMAS LORD, Jr., of Hartford. In 1682 he was a surgeon and physician, and thought of leaving Hartford, to prevent which the General Court contracted with him, that, if he would remain in Hartford one year, and use his best skill with the inhabitants of the towns upon the river, both for setting bones and in the practice of physic, the Court would pay him a salary of £15; and he should, in addition, receive for visiting any house in Hartford, twelve pence as reasonable pay; any house in Windsor, five shillings; any house in Withersfield, three shillings; any in Farmington, six shillings; and in Middletown, eight shillings. Dr. Lord informed the court he required no more, and agreed to remain. A law was enacted confirming the contract. The doctor was also, by the law, freed from watching, warding and training, but not from finding arms. He was the first physician mentioned upon the records, and was probably the first regularly bred surgeon in the colony, or he would not have been thus solicited by the General Court to remain in Hartford upon a salary paid by the public. The next surgeon employed by the public was DANIEL PORTER. In 1655, the General Court ordered him to be paid out of the public treasury, a salary of £6, and 6 shillings a journey to each town on the river, to exercise his "art of chirurgery."

HINMAN.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN CINCINNATI.

SIR: If this is the Medical Babel of America, as some traveller has been pleased to christen the Queen City of the West, it will be conceded that there is talent enough in its medical residents to meet every emergency of humanity.

We are free thinkers here in professional matters. There are anomalies in the constitution, too, of medical circles,—where no two agree upon any thing. But that is the real state of professional feeling everywhere, as nearly as can be ascertained. A vast amount of deep-felt bitterness is smothered up, coal-pit like, and the flame occasionally breaks out through the thin crust of conventional propriety. However, there is one happy consideration in regard to our pugnacities and local disagreements:—we become good-natured very quick-

ly, after the most violent paroxysms of badly controlled temper.

Gentlemen at a distance cannot care for our domestic vexations, which generally relate to schools and hospital domination. He who wins, may laugh.

In Cincinnati there are some strong-minded physicians. They can lecture, practise, or write in a commanding style. At the top of the column is the venerable Dr. Mussey,—who is an evergreen. His long life of usefulness, and strict adherence to all the old-fashioned customs, habits and usages of grave and excellent physicians of the olden period in New England induces us to believe that the medical men of his youth were solid thinkers, and true judges of what constituted genuine professional standing. The younger members of the body medical are progressive, and sometimes their enemies say aggressive. No city in the United States embraces such a singular concentration of medical spirits. Enterprise is their grand characteristic. An ambition for public teaching is a predominant trait, and some singular doctrines are taught. Who is in the right after ages may decide. How far into the remote future the opinions of any of us may extend, is a problem. There is a vigor in these colleges:—they sharpen the wits and infuse an energy into the whole family of aspirants.

Correspondents represent the extreme plethora of the medical ranks at all points. Certainly there is a redundancy of physicians and surgeons in Cincinnati. This is inferred from the circumstance that all who belong to the regular or irregular guild, are not oppressed with calls. Considering the expenses of a residence in Cincinnati, the compensation for medical service is far too small, and it would conduce to the individual advantage of us all, business or no business, if we could agree upon a higher tariff of charges. Some have the position required for asking what they choose to charge; while the young comers-on, and those next in rank to the elite are compelled to practise an extremely inconvenient system of economy.

Not so many medical books have been written in Cincinnati as might have been reasonably expected, with the amount of active chirographic tact which is known to exist. As in Chicago, the physicians have a kind of endemic ambition to be rich, without waiting for wealth by the slow process of legitimate prescriptions. Some have something at stake in railroads; others have embarked in a quiet way in steam-

boat shares; and perhaps other promising stocks. By these collateral things they live; by the practice of medicine they keep an elevated position in cultivated society.

In my humble estimation, one reason for the prodigious influx of physicians into Cincinnati, is the charm of its institutions; the literary taste that is rapidly developing in connection with the general fascination of the locality. If those who have been in Cincinnati have not a desire to return to it, they are without enthusiasm and a love for the beautiful in nature.

This is a focus for medical colleges. Perhaps the people at the East have read about them. At all events, the number of medical graduates annually set free upon their untried pinions, is marvellously large. Where they go, is a mooted question. To do honor, we hope and trust, to the schools where they were educated. A biographical sketch of individual medical notabilities would make a pleasant, diversified page of history.

With respect, I have the honor to remain

Yours,

J. W., M. D.

FLOATING FACTS.

Pictures on the Retina of Deceased Persons.

—It has been asserted that as images are impressed on the retina of the eye, the last scene or image pictured on the retina of a person suddenly deprived of life, would remain upon it, and could be viewed, if the schlerotic coat (white of the eye) were removed. It was proposed by one of the Coroner's Jurors, in the case of the late Dr. Burdell, assassinated in this city, that an examination be made of his eye to find out some clue to the assassin, by the image impressed on the retina. No such examination was made. Prof. Doremus stated to the Court that no good authority had ever endorsed the opinion respecting impressed pictures on the retina of deceased persons; he believed such opinions to be erroneous. This will put the speculations, in regard to this matter, at rest.—*American.*

Extraordinary Dentition.—A man in Tennessee, at the age of sixty, is said to be cutting a new set of teeth. Mr. John H. Fuller, of Bolivar, writes that he is the owner of a negress who calls herself one hundred years of age, but is supposed to be about ninety, who never had a tooth till about six months ago—since which she has had developed a fine full set of teeth.

Philosophy of Old Age.—In Prof. Kent's art of prolonging life, the following are leading propositions —

I.—The life of man, physically considered, is a peculiar phenomenon, effected by a concurrence of the united powers of nature with matter in a continual state of change, which, like every other physical operation, can be promoted or impeded, accelerated or retarded.

II.—Natural death, or death from old age, as it is termed, is a condition of the body resulting from a general ossification, or consolidation, of its various parts.

III.—The different stages of life, called infancy, childhood, youth, manhood, old age, and decrepitude, are but so many different degrees of this process of consolidation—each stage being characterized by an increased density and induration.

IV.—This process of ossification is the result of a gradual deposition of solid earthy matter (phosphate of lime, etc.) from the blood.

V.—The blood derives this earthy matter from the food and drink *only*.

VI.—different kinds of food and drink contain this matter in different proportions.

VII.—In proportion as we subsist upon those articles which contain the least amount, shall we prevent or retard the process of ossification, and thus prevent or retard old age and "natural" death.

VIII.—That thus it is possible to make such a selection of aliment (according to its chemical properties), still preserving the greatest variety, that health, activity, and life may be preserved for a period much greater than anything of which the mass of mankind are able to conceive.

Sixty students are in attendance on the course of lectures given in New York, by Drs. Stephenson and Gerrish, of the Ophthalmic Hospital. There is an increasing demand for well educated oculists, and no medical student should fail to have instruction from the highest professional sources. The Diseases of the Eye are illustrated by a splendid collection of models imported from Paris; also by Dalrymple's magnificent work on the Pathology of the Eye, the engravings of which surpass anything which has yet appeared from the London press. The various operations on the eye will be performed in the presence of the class, and each disease illustrated in living subjects as far as practicable.

Japanese Physicians.—To be well instructed, they are sent to China for the completion of their professional education. It is difficult to ascertain what knowledge they have of the action of drugs, or whether they have any true notion of the organs of the body. Probably their medications are elaborate compounds, in which gold, and perhaps diamond dust and other precious gems, enter into the composition. With the Turks, the metals are in high esteem as remedies,—particularly gold. But the apothecaries in Constantinople are abominable cheats, who rarely put up anything they pretend. If they assert the price of a powder is dear on account of the gold in it, there is a moral certainty that not a particle could be detected, if analyzed.

Sacrifice of Life.—Two hundred and fifty thousand people are working underground in the mines of England. Of these 30,000 are doomed to untimely death. This is not a mere conjecture; it is an average of the casualties of past years. The average age of the Sheffield grinders is hardly more than 35 years. Although exhibiting, as this does, a mortality that chills the heart, it is old age compared with the lives of a special branch of the trade, viz., the dry grinders. The "grinders' complaint" carries off its victims up to this day, despite the progress of medicine and the invention of science.

Public in New Hampshire.—In the town of Whitefield, N. H., only nine deaths occurred during the past year, being one in ninety-five of its inhabitants. In Bath, fourteen deaths occurred, being one in a hundred and twelve inhabitants. It is stated that the deaths in the State at large average about one in forty-five inhabitants. Of the deaths in Whitefield, four were persons aged 75, 79, 80, and 82, respectively, and three others were 50, 55, and 66, and one 44, and the other an infant.

Joy ending in Death.—John H. Griffin, Esq., of Jackson county, Georgia, slaughtered a hog weighing 687½ pounds. A negro who fed the animal got so drunk in rejoicing that he died in a fit.

Acoustic Phenomenon.—The guns fired in New Orleans on the 23d December last, in the national salute, at noon, were distinctly heard in Marion county, Miss., a distance in an air line of not less than eighty or ninety miles.

Eating Human Flesh.—M. Humboldt, in his "Personal Narrative," states that "in the thirteenth century, the habit of eating human flesh pervaded all classes of society. Extraordinary snares were spread for physicians in particular. They were called to attend persons who feigned to be sick, but who were only hungry, and it was not in order to be consulted, but devoured."

A New Place for Silver.—Prof. Faraday presented a paper to the Royal Society, recently, from F. Field, Esq., who has discovered silver in sea-water. Dollars brought up from a Spanish wreck, were exhibited in Boston by Capt. Couthouy, that had lost their silver, and their original specific gravity,—leaving a dark, friable, porous kind of shell.

Destructive Prosperity.—The papers recently contained an account of a man in Savannah who drew a \$15,000 prize in the lottery, went on a spree, lost his money, and died in a fit. Almost such a case has within a few days occurred in Washington. A young man obtained a prize of \$1500 in the Southern Military Academy Lottery, and has gone crazy in consequence.

Anomalous Population.—According to St. Anzeiger des Westons, a German paper of the Louis, the population of that city may be estimated, as to nationality, as follows: Americans, 28,000; Germans, 50,000; Irish, 36,000; French, 4000; English and Scotch, 5000; Italians and Spanish, 6000; Bohemians, 5000.

Living Skeleton.—There is a man in Manchester, N. H., says the Bee, thirty-five years old, six feet three inches high, who weighs only 88 1-2 pounds. When he was 18 years old he weighed 180. He is a mere frame-work, skin and bones, and a great curiosity. He was born and brought up in West Goffstown, a few miles from Manchester.

Human Temperaments.—Messrs. Fowler & Wells, New York, have just published the Natural History of the temperaments, in relation to marriage, the protection of society against crime, &c., which will be read with interest if it deals in facts rather than theories. It will be weighed in the balance as soon as a copy is received.

Laws of Stammering.—It is stated on authority, that amongst men one in every 25 stammers, while among women only one in every 20,000 is afflicted in that way. Has any one ever seen a woman who stuttered? It is not uncommon for them to lisp, but that characteristic interruption to distinct articulation, vulgarly called stuttering, must be rare among females, as no cases are cited by authors. Again, who ever saw a bald-headed woman? By a vice in dressing the hair, which is kept unnaturally upon the stretch, masses are loosened, and bare patches are the result; but a distinctly bald head, healthful and shining like the denuded pates of men, must be a rarity.

Weather.—The weather in Newfoundland this winter has presented a striking contrast with that experienced in New England. Captain Ayer, of the schooner Mary Hart, which arrived at Gloucester on Monday, reports very mild weather there during January. Fish placed on the decks of the vessel remained several days without freezing, and sometimes they were salted to be preserved.

Births, Marriages and Deaths in Cambridge, Mass.—The whole number of births recorded by the city Clerk, during the year 1856, were 729. The marriages solemnized during the same time, were 307. In the same period, 435 deaths were returned to the Clerk's office.

Animal Magnetism.—In the Leader, a London paper, of January 3d, is this paragraph: "The Roman Inquisition has issued an encyclical letter, declaring that the Church does not admit the practice of animal magnetism."

Medicating the air.—It is said that a small piece of rosin dipped in the water which is placed in a vessel on the stove, will add a peculiar property to the atmosphere of the room, which will give great relief to persons troubled with cough. The heat of the water is sufficient to throw off the aroma of the rosin.

Development of Hydrophobia.—A little son of Horace Stiles, in Waterford, N. Y., who was recently bitten by a dog, (which was not mad, and is now living) has died of hydrophobia, which was caused by the bite. Thus it is seen that madness in the animal is not necessary to make its bite fatal.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. Benjamin Hardridge's discovery of liquifying quartz rock, at the rate of fifteen tons a day,—so that every particle of gold may be saved and the stone afterwards formed into beautiful blocks for buildings,—is not without foundation. One or two scientific gentlemen of known geological celebrity, intimate their confidence in the doctor's process. Probably, the action of acids, in the form of vapor, at a high temperature, accomplishes the work.

Dr. M. Pierce Moore, who was arrested for a conspiracy, some months ago,—accused of hiring persons to commit murder, is on trial in Trenton, N. J. One of the colored men, named Stilt, whom it is charged the Doctor employed to murder Mr. Livingston, has died within the month. The other, named Wesley, gave evidence strongly implicating the Doctor, and he was confirmed as to the feeling existing, by the brother of the accused, who voluntarily came forward to testify that Dr. Moore had incited him, at one time, to kill Mr. Livingston, and he would divide the \$40,000 he expected with him.

An attempt in the Legislature of Massachusetts the present session, to prevent the sale of quack medicines in the State, was voted down by a strong majority. Probably many of the members are in favor of free trade in everything.

It would be as impossible to stop the sale of what are called patent medicines, as to prevent the wind from changing. Any prohibitory law would increase the demand four-fold.

A new impulse has been given to life-insurance of late. The insecure offices have disappeared, while those of known pecuniary responsibility are issuing policies quite actively. This requires a critical examination of applicants by competent physicians.

Dr. Garratt, of Hanover, Mass., two years ago, finding it to be extremely unpleasant to be frequently taking the wheels of his carriage off to grease the axle, in his active practice, bored a small hole directly through the hub down to the centre, inserted a tube, and, through it, poured the fluid to obviate friction. To prevent its escape out of the canal thus formed, a screw was let in, having a projecting head, to be turned out or in by the thumb and finger. This simple, cheap contrivance was so exceedingly convenient and admired,

that, Yankee-like, he procured a patent for it. The demand was such, that he immediately realized for the right to manufacture the apparatus, for a few counties, ten thousand dollars! Patents were then secured in the principal countries of Europe, and Dr. Garratt sailed from Boston, in one of the late steamers, to realize an immense income, probably, from the exercise of a ready mechanical ingenuity abroad, as well as at home. How true that great events from little causes spring.

A new kind of medicinal salt is referred to in the public papers, possessing singular properties,—the discovery of Dr. Cogswell.

Dr. Wyman, of Cambridge, has gone to Surinam, for the purpose of investigating the natural history of that region. It is at Paramaribo that the anableps is found, a fish with an eye constructed for seeing out of water with its lower half, and in the air with the upper portion. That monster toad, which carries its young brood in cells on its own back, is a native also of Surinam.

Scientific expeditions have been organized in several directions for the coming summer, with a view to collecting specimens in the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms, for college and private cabinets.

Some new exhibition of the powers of the spirits has been witnessed in Boston, of late, says report, in the presence of a prominent physician. A guitar and accordeon were skillfully played by invisible musicians! More insanity near at hand.

A surgeon has been arrested in London, for endeavoring to levy black mail by threatening to publish certain secrets which had been professionally disclosed to him.

There are from 50 to 80,000 unfortunate females in London, and perhaps a dozen asylums for that class, capable of holding 1500 or 1600 inmates.

Lemon juice is relied on by the physicians in London for curing rheumatism. Three tablespoonful per day is a dose for a man, says report.

Dr. Moritz Wagner and Herr Gemminger, are to receive 12,000 florins from King Maximilian, to enable them to join the newly projected scientific expedition round the world.

A competent electrician, with good instruments for carrying out the direction of physicians, might do well in Boston. Dr. Rogers, who had the confidence of the faculty, has left the city, and Dr. Cross died about a year since. They had the reputation of being excellent operators.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, MARCH 4, 1857.

ELECTRICITY.—Besides the uses to which this power is devoted in the purposes of civilization, it is among the Curiosities of Science that the mystic philosophers,—those impressible beings who imagine they are holding a direct chirographical communication with the celestial spheres, the abodes of their obliging correspondents,—also begin to converse learnedly upon electricity, as the agency employed between this lower wicked world, and the inhabitants of remote residences in the skies.

Perhaps the most unique of modern mechanical constructions, to illustrate electrical phenomena, was a machine or rather a combination of steel bars and taut cords put together in Boston about a year since, under the special directions of an invisible messenger. We were invited to inspect it, and the impression it made, on account of the oddity of the device, has not yet been effaced. It was regarded by the gentleman to whom the revelation was made, and who was commanded, according to his own declaration, to undertake the structure, as an elementary man! He was eloquent in explaining how one action would follow another, after it commenced generating electricity within itself, and certain phenomena would of course follow.

Beyond an inspection of the machine, nothing is known respecting the circle to which it belongs. Report says that word came that it must be removed to a certain locality in Western New York, and wait for further orders, where the whole apparatus, rods, screws, wire and iron plates are now waiting for additional finish.

The medium through whom this extraordinary to-be automaton has been manufactured, assures us upon his honor that he has no knowledge of mechanism, possesses no constructiveness, no love for tools or for fabrication, nor even a remote acquaintance with the general laws of electricity. In this he unquestionably speaks truly, since no such construction was ever before seen on earth.

But here is the most dreamy and insane part of the matter. Entire confidence is entertained in the opinion, that when the machine is completed, as it will be under the daily directions of the attendant spiritual essence, this electrical, active thing will develop mind! A soul is to be created!

Wild with emotion of this character, and intensely devoted to researches into the dark future, where neither the eye, the ear, nor the touch is serviceable, and the imagination riots and revels in the society of intangible visitors—the phantoms of a brain overexcited by images of the imagination—it is by no means strange that insanity is on the increase.

With all the enthusiasm of individuals, and the associated efforts of circles, papers, publications and showers of direct revelations, not a single point has been gained, of appreciable value to mankind, through modern Spiritualism. The blind lead the blind, and when one of the favored ones falls into the ditch, the reception house for lunatics receives him, and the delusion, like a storm, still rages without. Where this mania will end, and what will be the climacteric of such organized absurdities as are betwitching and maddening the community, cannot be predicted. A culminating point must ultimately be reached, and the descent from high to low will be extremely rapid.

No country is so beset with visionaries as the United States. One prodigious folly is invariably followed by another, so that there is no time when some wonderful something is not in the ascendant. Our national excitability and marvellousness result from the mingling and mixing up the blood of all nations in our own.

MEDICAL CORONERS.—It is every where admitted that physicians are the proper and only truly qualified persons to hold the office of coroner. For years Massachusetts plodded along with the old drag of incompetent coroners. At present most of the gentlemen holding that responsible office are fully able to sustain themselves. But all future appointments should be from the professional ranks. Otherwise the true intent and purpose of an inquest falls through.

New York has uttered a loud and bitter lamentation over the coroner who held the Burdell inquisition. He is represented to have been rude in his deportment, and wholly unfit to conduct a grave inquiry on an occasion so solemn. The press of that city have already handled him with a severity that must convince the incumbent that he is held in poor estimation for the office. Should the Governor of the State hereafter copy the policy of Massachusetts, and medical men exclusively be nominated for the place,—New-York will escape a repetition of the mortifying scenes just passed through.

When Mr. Wakley was commissioned a coroner, a complete revolution was commenced in London, in respect to the qualifications of the incumbent. A stupid dolt, as often as otherwise, without special capacity, and shamefully ignorant of anatomy, was considered good enough to organize these inquiries. Low fees, or no fees, are no longer complained of in England in reference to coroners' juries. The compensation of medical witnesses is something near the worth of their business for the hours or days they may have been detained in the court.

Whether the custom of selecting physicians for coroners obtains in other States, we have no direct means of knowing. Wherever the stereotyped practice exists of putting a cobbler into commission, rather than some one who would dignify the office by suitable qualifications to preside as a magistrate, a retrograde

movement in the march of civilization will be recognized.

There has been something of an effort on the part of the city of Boston, heretofore, to keep down the expenses attending inquests. Coroners presented their bills to the county treasurer for payment in Massachusetts. They were viewed with surprise by committees of Aldermen in Boston, who refused to pass them for liquidation, on account of their magnitude—it being argued that the charges were needless and exorbitant. The coroners carried the day, and still have something towards a living out of the dead.

PROFESSIONAL AURISTS.—Specialties are realities. It is the most successful kind of practice, however pointedly very many may carp at those who have the independence to announce themselves devoted to any particular department of medicine or surgery. Because it is rather a novelty in this country, all sorts of valiant speeches are made against it, with a reference to undermining the growing confidence entertained by an intelligent public, in the ability of a studious man to prescribe more appropriately for one disease than the whole catalogue to which humanity is incident.

But to the subject. Although heartily approving and commending special practice, there is one specialty that does not deserve patronage. It promises more than can be accomplished.

Of all organs pertaining to the body, the ear is decidedly and unmistakably difficult to restore to a normal condition, when internally deranged.

Being a receiving instrument and not a perceiving organ, its passiveness adds to the obscurities which envelope the diseases and functional disorders to which it is liable. Hence nearly every effort made to restore a deaf ear is guess-work. Hearing not being located in the tympanum, and the authority of anatomists and physiologists being appealed, to show that no one can determine whether it is to be sought for in the vestibule, semicircular canals, cochlea, or the nerves coursing through the whole of them, aurists, as they designate themselves, know no more about the seat of deafness than old women in general. Still, they receive fine fees for manipulating, where in a majority of cases, they aggravate and confirm the misfortune.

A patient's large hope and active imagination, under the hallucination that he is in skilful hands, may slightly rouse the dormant energies of the acoustic apparatus; but most generally it is followed by a speedy disappointment. Mechanical obstructions in the meatus externus, or the Eustachian tube, are within the reach of any adroit surgeon. Beyond, it is uncertain ground, which Nature, in her solicitude to keep intact, as she does the whole animal structure, manages far better in her own unobtrusive way, than all the aurists in Christendom.

Deaf people should keep away from these aurists; they quite as often harm, and certainly do no good if the labyrinth is affected.

Many of the awkward contrivances to be found in shops, in the form of tin horns, flexible tubes with bell shaped extremities, &c., are philosophical in their construction,—inasmuch as the expansion of surface gather in and concentrates more sonorous rays than the external ear. Beyond these, those profoundly experienced in the anatomy of the organ have no confidence in the resources of art.

Deaf persons being extremely anxious to be restored, are apt to try all the advertised nostrums before asking advice, and then as frequently as otherwise they apply where there is no help,—to the professional aurist.

BOOK-MAKING.—As usual, the pages of the American Publishers' Circular, is without the announcement of an American medical work. This is lamentable. Six thousand physicians and surgeons are daily gathering up facts which should not be lost. Still, with all the mental energy and activity peculiar to the profession, not a single new book, of a striking character, has appeared for a long period. Possibly there are to be surprisals by and by, with the agreeable intelligence that several productions are on the eve of publication. But if anything of magnitude were in the process of being made, it would have been known.

Very valuable works of reference might be written by those whose modesty stands in the way of their bibliographical usefulness. Only record facts,—just as they occurred in practice,—and leave others to comment upon them, and such authors would be hailed as original writers. No theories are in request.

American editions of the following volumes are advertised. Not having seen them, of course we have no means of knowing whether they equal the English editions, viz.: Sir Benjamin Brodie, *on Mind and Matter*, and *Life in its Lower, Intermediate and Higher Forms*, by Mr. Goss.

The *Annual of Scientific Discovery*, published by Messrs. Gould & Lincoln, Boston, abounds in matter of interest to men of science. It has no special reference to medicine; still it is a valuable acquisition to the library of a physician. It is a source of peculiar gratification to see at a glance how science has been progressing within the last twelve months. This presents an accurate synopsis of the whole, in all departments of human knowledge.

MARRIAGES.

In Parsonstown, Ireland, Dr. Waters, Surgeon, who will be greatly mourned by those in the U. S. who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

DEATHS.

In Freeport, Me., Feb. 19, very suddenly, John John A. Hyde, M. D., a native of Rehoboth, Mass., aged 85 yrs., 6 mo.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

MARCH 11, 1857.

NUMBER 24.

INFLUENCE OF THE CLIMATE

UPON THE PHYSICAL CONDITION, HABITS
AND MANNERS OF THE PEOPLE OF
THE UNITED STATES.

BY T. T. BOUVE.

Travellers in visiting distant people, are much inclined to sharply criticise every habit and custom peculiar to those among whom they sojourn, seldom recognizing that many or all of these proceed from circumstances, also peculiar to the locality, over which the inhabitants have no control, and which render such habits and customs absolutely necessary for their comfort and well-being.

Our country has not been exempt from visitation on the part of travellers with the inclination referred to, or our countrymen from their too-often thoughtless judgment. We state this, bearing fully in mind much valuable and philosophical criticism upon us by enlightened foreigners, and for which we have only feelings of deep gratitude.

After returning from a visit abroad a few years since, we were led to consider the causes that would explain the differences perceptible to every foreigner of observation, between the manners and customs as well as the physical condition of the people of the United States and those of Europe, particularly of Great Britain and Germany; and this strongly inclined us to judge, that almost every difference in physical condition, in habits and manners; almost every variation in fashion or taste, or in means of action; might be accounted for, simply by the different character of our climate from that of the countries mentioned; and we have, since this idea first suggested itself to mind, found it strongly corroborated in the views expressed by a celebrated savant of Neuchatel, Switzerland, upon the climate of the United States, published in the

proceedings of the Helvelique Society of Natural Sciences. Before dwelling on the subject of these differences, we will quote a remark from the article referred to, to show the result of experience on the part of immigrants arriving in the United States as cited by him:

"When a German or a Swiss has landed in New York, he finds in general that the climate is not very different from that of his own country. In a little time, however, and in proportion as he becomes settled, he begins to notice differences that soon oblige him to modify some of his habits, and at the end of a certain time, lead him to adopt, willingly or unwillingly, some American manners which had at first been the object of his most bitter criticism."

Now, what is here said of a German or a Swiss may with equal truth be said of most other Europeans. An Englishman, for instance, arrives here, and he at once observes certain peculiarities in our modes of action, our condition, physical appearance, &c., that lead him to criticise, and perhaps to ridicule. He takes up his residence here, or at least becomes a frequent visitor. By and by he finds himself adopting essentially the same customs that prevail about him, and moreover, finds much of all that he at first criticised to be only a consequence of circumstances over which individuals have but little influence; such as climate and the results of climate on the physical and moral character.

Those who have read Kane's late work on the Arctic regions, will find a strong illustration of our ideas upon the influence of climate, in what he says of the habits of the Esquimaux, and the necessity he experienced by finally adopting such as were at first very repulsive to him.

In physical respects, Americans, as a general thing, differ from Europeans, especially the English and Germans, in having less develop-

ment of flesh and muscle. There is not with the masses that rotundity of person, that exists in classes equally well-conditioned in the old world. The nervous system seems to have relatively a greater predominance over the muscular. There is, consequently, more activity displayed, both in individuals and in national life. Movement is more impulsive. In parts of the body, the manifestation of difference is not less striking. The hair, for instance, is far more dry and less inclined to curl. From this fact comes the inclination, almost the necessity, to use oils more freely. The teeth, we think, are more liable to decay, thus showing more, perhaps, than in the case of the hair, constitutional disturbance. Other differences of a physical character exist, as we have designated only such as are apparent to the casual observer. Now but few, we think, will deny that these at least have arisen from the different climate that we are subjected to, either directly or from variation in habits, consequent upon that difference, which is all the same thing; for if the climate necessarily leads to the adoption of certain habits, the results of such habits are as certainly to be ascribed to the climate, as if they flowed directly from its influence. Let us now call to mind the peculiarities of the climate, particularly such as distinguish it from that of Great Britain. We are led of course first to note the greater extremes of temperature, for these influence too sensibly our comfort, not to be paramount in thought. Here in Boston, in January, the thermometer was a part of the time 15° to 20° below zero, Fahr., and in the interior it exhibited a considerably greater degree of cold. In the summer, on the contrary, we are sweltering in an atmosphere often not much below 100° , Fahr., in the shade. The effect of such extremes is undoubtedly to exhaust the vital powers. True it is, that in cold weather the vigor of the system manifests itself, and one in health feels much more energetic than in milder periods; but is not the increased vigor the result of an effort of the system to resist a condition unnatural to it, and do not our vital powers suffer in the end? Certain it is we better bear extreme cold in early winter, than in the spring, and equally certain that a native of England, or even of the West Indies, will better bear the first winter of his sojourn here, than any native. This is a fact too often noticed by those who have friends from warmer latitudes, to be denied; and does this prove that in us the power to bear extreme cold is in a degree weakened? But it is not alone upon the

extremes of temperature that we would dwell, for unquestionably the greater dryness of the atmosphere, when compared with that of England and Germany, will account for much of the variation in the systematic condition of the inhabitants from that presented by the normal type in those countries. Now let us consider what change may be ascribed to this particular cause, and how we Americans are affected thereby. One of the effects is alleged to be the dryness of the hair, before alluded to. Admitting this to be the case, we may suppose that it happens either from the direct influence of the atmosphere devoid of moisture, or from constitutional disturbance consequent thereon. This leads to the question whether constitutional disturbance is produced in us by a dry atmosphere, and how? or, to make the question embrace the whole idea in mind, is constitutional disturbance produced in the Anglo-Saxon, and other Europeans, by placing them in an atmosphere more dry than that in which the races originated? We will answer this question in the affirmative, and assume that the physical differences that have been mentioned as existing between Englishmen and Americans arise from this cause, believing that in the answer to the next question—How this disturbance is produced? will be found views that will commend themselves as sustaining the position taken. Let us recall to mind the differences noted. The hair more dry and less inclined to curl. The nervous system more sensitive in comparison with the muscular, leading to quicker thought and action. Greater liability of the teeth to decay. The form less rotund, and the complexion more sallow. Now one of these may be, as before suggested, the result of the direct action of the drier atmosphere, but the rest, and probably all, arise from a cause deeper than this, and which is believed by us to be due to what has not been enough thought upon, viz.: the increased quantity of Oxygen which the system consumes in an arid atmosphere, over what would be the case in one more moist, such as that of England or Germany. It may be suggested that the atmosphere is the same essentially the world over, containing everywhere the same proportion of oxygen. This is true of the dry atmosphere, but it is equally true that vapor dilutes it for respiration, inasmuch as the oxygen of the moisture itself is not available for this purpose. It is clear, therefore, that in breathing a gallon of perfectly dry air, more oxygen is taken into the system than when we breathe the like quantity of air mixed largely with the vapor of

water. Now will it be said that such a fact as this will not account for many of the differences between the people of the United States and those of Europe? Every body knows the effects produced upon an individual by his respiring an atmosphere containing more than a natural proportion of oxygen, as for instance the nitrous oxide gas. And does it not practically amount to the same thing, whether we add oxygen to an atmosphere already in a proper condition for our respiration, or subtract its natural diluent? If now it is admitted that the home of our race is in a region of greater moisture, and that we have left the conditions necessary for perfect and healthy development behind us, will it be wondered at that we exhibit new characteristics, or even that we suffer in some respects by the change? Of course we write with the faith that every race has its appropriate home, where the conditions necessary for its physical well-being are better than elsewhere, and from which it cannot wander without suffering at least temporary detriment.

The remark may possibly be made here by the reader, and not without reason, that Germany and Great Britain themselves can hardly be called the home places of the race or races that now occupy those countries. This is in a measure true, but yet we think will not lessen the force of our argument, inasmuch as whatever view we take upon the question, whether any portion of the progenitors of the present people of Great Britain and Germany were indigenous to those countries, it must be admitted that none of them were ever subjected to so considerable a change in outward physical circumstances by removal, as were their descendants in coming here. Moreover we by no means deny that there is an adaptation of the human constitution to circumstances that may sooner or later, after centuries of suffering it may be, bring an alien race into harmony with the conditions that surround it.

If the ideas expressed in relation to the effects of an arid atmosphere upon the Anglo-Saxon in the United States are correct, we ought to perceive some results in the necessary modification of habits: and we do, not only in such a case as cited, viz., the greater use of oils for the hair, but in others where cause and effect are not so apparent; for instance, an inhabitant of Great Britain, who at home partakes freely of intoxicating liquors, and does it too without apparent harm, finds, after a few months' residence in the United States, that it is not possible for him to indulge to the same extent. The experience of almost every

Scotchman or Englishman resident here will corroborate this statement. May we not rightly say, that being already exhilarated beyond a healthy condition by the atmosphere, less artificial stimulus can be borne taken as a beverage? Let any free whiskey-drinking inhabitant of the countries mentioned, that doubts this conclusion, try the effects of the same quantity of this liquor upon him after arrival, that he has been accustomed to drink at home, and if he does not acknowledge the truth of what is said, it will be, we fear, because his condition will no longer admit of good judgment. Even fermented liquors, ale and porter, it is impossible to drink with any thing like the freedom they are partaken of in Great Britain. Shall we then conclude that we are generally, i. e., in the usual dry state of the atmosphere, in any degree intoxicated? or in other words unnaturally excited? This would be the conclusion were it not for the recognition that the system, to some extent at least, adapts itself sooner or later to circumstances. *This*, however, may be said as an inference from the ideas presented: that we are generally in the same condition by the effects of the unnatural quantity of oxygen breathed by us, as would be the inhabitants of a more moist climate, if almost always under the influence of a small quantity of artificial stimulus. We need not say that these remarks are intended to apply only to the people of our race. If the aborigines of this country do not suffer the same evils that we, the Anglo-Saxons, do in many respects, it undoubtedly arises from their being formed physically for the conditions that exist here, as we were for those that exist abroad.

We have yet to write upon the influence of climate in other respects than those that affect directly the physical well-being, and in doing this, shall but briefly refer to some differences in habits or customs that have been criticised by our brethren of the Old World. One of the habits often commented upon by Englishmen, as exhibiting on our part vulgarity of taste, is that indulged in by our ladies, of appearing in the streets much more showily attired than is usual with their fair partners at home. Now we are by no means disposed to justify all the display of silks and jewelry that is made in our public thoroughfares,—particularly in New York; but will assert that the difference thus manifested has as little to do with difference of taste or character in any respect, as it has to do with that of the forms of our respective governments. The truth is, that

in matters of taste and character, we are essentially alike. The difference in dress referred to, simply arises from the difference in the general state of the weather. In London, the street is usually no place for dress, technically so called. It would be absurd in such a damp and foggy atmosphere, as often prevails there, to go abroad gaily and expensively attired. But it is very different in New York and other American cities, where bright heavens and a clear transparent atmosphere make the public promenade-ground as unobjectionable a place, at least for display of dress, as is St. James's Park for that of equipages. How is it in France, where fair skies and a clear air prevail during the greater portion of the year? Is there any less display of dress among ladies of taste and fashion in the streets of Paris than in the streets of the American cities? Again, "How ridiculous," says an English friend, "for your American ladies to wear such thin-soled shoes in the streets. No wonder they suffer from colds and other evils: the wonder is they do n't all die with consumption." Undoubtedly there is imprudence enough in this respect, but let us ask why the English ladies do not do likewise. Is it not simply because they cannot often go abroad without danger of immediate suffering thereby from damp walks, &c., and is not the reason why the American ladies *do*, because during a considerable portion of the year, the walk is generally as good a place, and as safe to wear slippers, as the carpeted hall?

The custom on the part of the English ladies, of walking more abroad and going greater distances on foot than the American, is often commented upon. This is just what might be expected from the different climates, for where the extremes of temperature are great, as in the United States, the habit of passing much time abroad is far less likely to prevail than where the climate is more equable.

That our remarks may not extend to an unreasonable length, we will but allude to one of many other differences where the use of an article varying from what is common in England, is made a subject of wonder. Our case shall be that of the railroad carriage. We will suppose the arrival of a friend from abroad. He has, for the first time, entered one of our long cars. If he has restrained himself from criticism until seated, it is more of a wonder to us than the car is to him. Soon he discants on the fine carriages of the English roads, just large enough for a few friends to seat

themselves cosily together, whilst our cars seem to him awkwardly long. "All very well," we say; "but please wait before you entirely condemn ours in comparison; wait until the thermometer is below zero a few degrees, and we think you will be glad to vacate your stoveless carriage for our well-warmed one."

That cars similar in construction to ours are used in some countries where it is not necessary to heat them, is true, but we presume no one will doubt that the rigor of our climate had a strong influence in preventing the adoption of such as are found on the English roads.

But enough. We do not care to go further. We did not commence with the idea of showing that *all* differences between us and our brethren abroad might be accounted for through the influence of climate, but only that a considerable part of them might, and this we think we have sufficiently shown. The truth is, as before remarked, we are essentially alike. Faults we undoubtedly have, from which they are free; habits peculiar and objectionable, from which their criticisms may help us to become free. We would, therefore, gladly welcome all that may be said or written concerning us, by such as are wise enough to discriminate, and just enough to be true.

MORAL INSANITY.

When the late celebrated New York forger was on trial, the testimony of two prominent medical gentlemen of that city created an unusual sensation. Their opinions were circulated extensively, but seem not to have convinced any one, not even the jury before whom the arch-criminal was tried, that the medical theory presented in regard to Huntington was entitled to grave consideration, as an ameliorating circumstance in his case. That the profession may have the words of Drs. Parker and Gilman for future reference, the following extract has been copied from the Law Reporter, a Journal of high character in legal circles.

THE TRIAL OF HUNTINGTON, AND THE LEGAL AND MEDICAL THEORY OF THE DEFENCE.

This case has occupied a large share of public attention, from the extraordinary number of forgeries committed by the defendant, and from the novel character of the defence, as applied to an accusation of this nature. We do not

doubt the correctness of the verdict of guilty, but we cannot join in the abuse which a large portion of the press saw fit to heap upon the counsel for the defence, whose theory of the defendant's insanity was supported not only by considerable antecedent probability, but by the testimony of physicians of experience. We give as a matter of curiosity, some of the testimony of the medical witnesses.

Dr. WILLARD PARKER said:

He (Huntington) seemed to have a mind which operated very differently from the mass of minds; my conclusion was that he was insane; self-preservation is one of the laws of our nature, and he seemed to have no sort of tendency and care with regard to it whatever; the all-absorbing subject was the mere matter of making paper and carrying on paper operations in Wall Street (!) I should not regard this affliction as monomania, still the making of "paper" seemed to be the all-absorbing matter with him, and if he were out he would make this paper again.

Cross-examined by Mr. NOYES.

Q. What do you mean by monomania, when you speak of it?

A. I should define it that a man's mind operates naturally right (so to speak) on all subjects excepting one subject, or one or two subjects; in reference to that subject, the moment it is touched it awakens a new train of thought, action, and manifestation, which actions are entirely at war with what is called the action of a sound mind; the opinion which I formed about his mind was entirely dependent on his statements and my own examination of his condition; the forms of insanity are infinite; the medical profession do not undertake to give a separate name to each peculiar development of insanity; that is admitted to be quite impossible by the most eminent medical men; in treating of some peculiar forms of monomania, those terms are made use of as expressive of this monomaniacal condition,—but though some forms are thus defined by name, I suppose there are a great number that have no name.

Mr. BRADY then read to Dr. PARKER the evidence introduced for the defence, and put to him the question, whether, granting that the jury believed the evidence, he would consider Huntington sane or insane when the forgery in question was committed?

A. Supposing I knew nothing of the case now, it is possible that all you read to me might take place as the result of unparalleled recklessness; but knowing what I do of his

case from personal examination, and also from testimony which I have heard, I should say that these actions were the actions of an unsound or insane man. No sane man would perform such actions in that way.

Q. If you think he was insane, what was the nature and character of that insanity?

A. It would be difficult to answer that question directly; I could not bring it under the head of monomania, but I should say it was monomania upon the subject of making paper for the simple purpose of obtaining means, not that he had any motive beyond that, that I could discover.

This is sufficiently indefinite and mystifying even for a medical expert, not generally the most precise and perspicuous of witnesses, but it may be it is the most exact a fair scientific man could make it.

In answer to Mr. NOYES, the doctor says: I think he is morally insane.

Q. In your judgment, upon what question is he morally insane?

A. He has no conception that he has committed any wrong; he does not appreciate it as a sound moral man would.

Q. You mean that he is incapable of appreciating the consequences of crime,—you think that he is incapable of appreciating that forgery is a crime?

A. I do not know that; I think that he knows that forgery is a crime, but I think he does not appreciate the bearing of this crime upon his character; I think he does not appreciate the stigma connected with it; I think he knew he had committed a crime.

This hair-splitting as to the distinction between the prisoner's knowledge of right and wrong, and his conception of the influence of crime upon his character and standing, is to us wholly unintelligible, and sets at defiance all legal theories of criminal responsibility heretofore established. It seems to us it would instantly set afloat the whole criminal system, and sum up its principle of responsibility in this concise and convenient dogma, viz.: to be a criminal, with a criminal's depravity, works full absolution of all crime! It may be a jury can understand this philosophy, and it may be that Dr. PARKER understands it, but this latter, with all respect for him, we beg to question. To proceed:

Q. You say he has no appreciation of his situation because of a diseased organization,—you mean mentally?

A. I mean the disease of the functions and organs of the brain.

Q. What particular organ is diseased ?

A. The brain.

Q. In what portion do you refer to the organs according to the pathologists that you mentioned ?

A. I refer now, sir, to the effect that he has a trouble of vision, a steady pain in the head, and has sleepless nights. I rely upon these facts because he told me them ; I am not prepared to say that his mental organization was such that he was irresistibly impelled to commit forgery.

This, it seems to us, concedes away the basis fact of the defence.

Q. Why could he not resist the tendency to commit forgery ?

A. Because of his diseased physical, not mental organization.

Q. What was this disease ?

A. I am not able to give you pathological anatomy of the case.

Q. Is that equivalent to saying you could not give a reason why he could not resist it ?

A. He had certain manifestations and symptoms, (I am not speaking simply of what I saw,) viz. : pain in his head, congestion of the brain, *machinery*, in the head, (that he referred to also in our interview,) want of sleep, — putting those facts together, they lead us back to the inevitable conclusion that there is a diseased organization.

Mr. NOYES.—Please answer my question : What was the difficulty in his physical organization which prevented him from being able to resist the tendency to commit forgeries ?

A. The precise nature of that difficulty I cannot name, as his pathological anatomy cannot be ascertained.

Q. Do you suppose he has conscience ?

A. I think he has. I do not suppose it acts like other men's consciences, because he has done what other men would not do having conscience.

Q. Is it not, sir, because he has committed too many forgeries ?

A. I do not believe it is. I do not know that Huntington is laboring under any insane delusion. I have not discovered that he is laboring under any delusion, whether insane or not, which compels him to commit forgery. I think he is not laboring under any delusion which forbids his committing forgery. I think he is not laboring under any delusion which prevents him from abstaining from committing forgery.

Q. Is he laboring under any hallucination, which compels him to commit forgery ?

A. I know of nothing which forbids (?) it. I have not discovered that he is laboring under any irresistible impulse to commit any other offence. I have not discovered that his organization compels him to steal or lie.

Q. But you think he is laboring under an organization which leads him to commit forgery, — have the goodness to state what that organization is ?

A. That I am unable to do ; it is my opinion that it is merely physical ; it is not mental.

Q. So then it is the physical organization when all his mental operations are entirely right ?

A. No, sir ; his mental operations are not right. They would be if his organization were ; this tendency to forgery, I repeat, exists in his brain, and because of his diseased organization.

Q. It exists, as I understand you, with a knowledge on his part that he has committed forgery, and that it is a crime ?

A. He does this knowing that it is a forgery, but how far he appreciates it as a crime, I am not prepared to say.

Q. Does this organization consist in any undue existence of what is called the faculty of acquisition ?

A. I think it does not. There is no evidence at all that it consists in large acquisitiveness.

Q. What is the propensity, the indulgence of which in the physical organization leads him to commit any forgery ?

A. I cannot name the organization that furnishes the propensity that leads him to commit any forgery ; it is a love for forgery growing out of his diseased physical organization.

Q. In your opinion as a medical man, that exists in connection with a perfect mental understanding on his part that it is a forgery and wrong ?

A. I think that is my opinion. I do not mean to say that this propensity is so strong that he cannot resist it. I am unable to say how far the power to resist the tendency to commit forgery is impaired by his physical organization, but I do think if he were set free he would do just as he had done before.

Mr. NOYES.—That is hardly an answer to my question, Doctor. To what extent do you suppose his power to resist temptation to commit forgery is impaired by the diseased physical organization of which you speak ; is it partial or total ?

A. I cannot say what motives you might bring to operate upon his mind. You might place before him motives that would lead him to avoid it, but if let go free he would do the

same thing. I do not know whether his physical organization is such as to enable him to resist the temptation to steal or lie.

Dr. GILMAN was next examined. He is a physician of thirty years' experience,—and a professor of medicine and medical jurisprudence. He examined Huntington at the Tombs, with a view to appreciate the state of his mind. His impression was that he was unsound and insane—that he had no moral sense. We quote him verbatim:—

“I suppose the brain is diseased in every case where moral insanity exists. A man who commits a murder may be intellectually aware that it is a crime, and yet be insane. A large amount of cunning is not incompatible with insanity, even when exhibited in connection with that insanity. As a general rule insane persons deny that they are insane, and they are very urgent to be let loose on the ground that they are not insane.”

The witness here confirmed the statement of Peck and Pritchard, in which it is asserted that a man can be morally insane without intellectual hallucination. On cross-examination he stated:—

“His answers were never incoherent. I asked him how he came to do what he did, and if he did not know that it was illegal and wicked? He said he did not mean to do anything wrong, and that it was impossible to be convicted. All I could get out of him was, that he knew it was wrong, as men say when they commit *usury*. All I mean to say is, that having examined, I believe him to be insane. I pronounce him insane. A man manifests his insanity in a particular way. I suppose Huntington has that mixture of mental and moral insanity which is very often found. I believe he has a diseased brain. I don't believe he would be responsible if he rose up at this moment and drove a knife into you. If he should commit any offence whatever, I believe he would not be responsible. He would not know what he was doing if he did what I said above. The fact of his committing murder, and knowing that he would be hanged for it, would not affect the question of his insanity, neither would his commission of forgery or stealing. He might know that all this was wrong; delusion or hallucination has nothing to do with it. I believe that he has moral and mental insanity, with a little of intellectual insanity. Intellectual insanity is that he was reckless in the use of money in the way he committed the forgery, and his making no attempt to escape. In reference to this

matter of forgery, I have my doubts as to whether he is insane. The question is, if he were placed in circumstances where he could commit violence, would he not have done so? I think he has general insanity. It is doubtful whether it is right to call it monomania. I differ from Dr. PARKER with regard to this man's insanity being monomania or a general mania. Huntington had an irresistible tendency to commit crime. My opinion is, if a man is insane it would be unsafe to calculate on what he might or might not do. *The distinction made by the twelve judges in England, of insanity, is all wrong in my opinion. I regard it as nonsense.*”

It will be remembered by the legal reader, that that opinion was, that “*to establish a defence on the ground of insanity, it must be clearly proved that at the time of committing the act, the party accused was laboring under such a defect of reason, from disease of the mind, as not to know the nature and quality of the act he was doing, or if he did know it, that he did not know he was doing what was wrong*” (1 Car. & Kir. 134; 8 Scott, N. R. 595.) The doctor makes quite free with this opinion of the English court, and we are not certain but he correctly characterizes it. It has always seemed to us a very uncertain and unsafe standard of criminal responsibility. The latest treatise on medical jurisprudence, (Wharton and Stillé.) divides that inquiry into the three heads of cases where the defendant is acting under an insane delusion as to circumstances, which, if true, would relieve the act from responsibility, or where his reasoning powers are so depraved as to make the commission of the particular act the natural consequence of the delusion,—cases where the defendant is impelled by a morbid and uncontrollable impulse to commit the particular act; and, lastly, cases where the defendant is incapable of distinguishing right from wrong, in reference to the particular act.

The presiding judge substantially followed the ruling of the twelve judges:—“To constitute a complete defence, insanity if partial, as monomania, must be such in degree as to wholly deprive the accused of the guide of reason in regard to the act with which he is charged, and of the knowledge that he is doing wrong in committing it. If, though somewhat deranged, he is yet able to distinguish right from wrong in the particular case in which crime is imputed to him, and to know that he is doing wrong, the act is criminal in law, and he is liable to punishment.”

It was insisted on the part of the defence that insanity, either special or general, may exist, and *the subject be wholly unable to control his actions while his intellect or knowing and reasoning powers suffer no notable lesion.* This proposition was ridiculed by the judge, but if the scientific mind of the country has adopted or shall adopt it, the courts must sooner or later follow the example.

SIMPLE CHRONIC ULCER OF THE STOMACH IN ITS MEDICO-LEGAL RELATIONS.

BY DR. LEES, PHYSICIAN TO THE MEATH HOSPITAL.

Having discussed the positive and differential diagnosis of simple ulcer of the stomach, as well as the symptoms of perforation, I will briefly allude to this subject in its medico-legal relations, as suspicion of poison has occasionally arisen when a person, in apparent health, has died after a few hours' illness, from perforation of the stomach. Mr. Alfred Taylor, in an important paper on this subject, states that "perforation from natural causes has, in more than one instance, been mistaken for perforation from poisoning," and he enumerates the following general characters, in which they resemble each other:—1. "The person attacked is commonly in apparent good health." 2. "The symptoms are, chiefly, violent pains in the abdomen, with or without vomiting." 3. "These symptoms are often suddenly developed soon after a meal." 4. "The case proves rapidly fatal, death generally taking place in from eighteen to thirty-six hours, which is about the period within which arsenic destroys life." He selected arsenic as the example because it is so common a poison, and causes symptoms somewhat similar to those caused by disease; besides we could not well mistake perforation from disease for that caused by corrosive poisons. To form a diagnosis for medico-legal purposes, Mr. Taylor advises that we should take into account the following circumstances:—

1. "Perforation of the stomach is comparatively frequent, as a result of disease, and is apt to attack a particular class of persons, namely, young females. Perforation is so rare an effect of arsenic, that out of a vast number of accurate reports of death by this poison, there are not, so far as I am aware, more than three cases in which this morbid change has

been observed; and only one of these occurred in Britain. This fell under the notice of that accurate observer, Dr. Christison."

2. "In perforation from disease, the symptoms may not occur until three or four hours after any substance has been swallowed. In arsenical poisoning, the symptoms commonly occur in about half an hour after the substance containing the poison has been taken."

3. "In perforation from disease, the pain in the abdomen occurs suddenly, and is of the most intense character. It is sometimes felt in the lower part; and at others, over the whole of that cavity. In arsenical poisoning, the pain comes on gradually, slowly increases in severity, is commonly described as of a burning kind, and is chiefly confined to the region of the stomach."

4. "In perforation from disease, vomiting, if it exists, is commonly slight; and it is chiefly confined to what is swallowed. There is no purging; the bowels are generally constipated. In arsenical poisoning, the vomiting is usually severe, and diarrhoea is seldom wanting."

5. "We must attach some value to the shortness of the period within which diseased perforations destroy life, from the time of the first appearance of the symptoms, as the stomach has not been found perforated in any instance in which arsenic has destroyed life within twenty-four hours."

6. "In perforation, peritonitis is generally the sole cause of death. In arsenical poisoning, the fatal result takes place under the peculiar symptoms produced by the poison."

7. "In diseased perforation, the mucous membrane of the stomach and small intestines is not commonly inflamed; but, in Dr. Christison's case, the surface of the stomach was very vascular, marked in different places with dark brown spots of various sizes, and here and there abraded. The intestines were internally very red."

8. "*Situation.*—In perforation from disease, the aperture is commonly placed in or near the lesser curvature; but arsenic may perforate the parietes in any part of the stomach. In Dr. Christison's case, the perforation was in the anterior wall; but as a general rule, perforations from poisons are found to occur in the basis or fundus of the stomach."

9. "*Size.*—No criterion exists on this ground. In the above case the aperture was about the size of a pea—the size which is often found in perforation from disease. In regard to other characters, we may observe, that in perforation from disease, the border is some-

times smooth, presenting no mark of erosion; it may be thickened; and the thickening extends occasionally, for some distance around, into the parietes of the stomach, which are indurated. In the case of perforation by poison, already alluded to, the aperture had a dark, ragged margin."

10. "In perforation from disease, no poison will be discovered in the stomach or intestines, and in general, the absence of poison from a perforated stomach ought to be taken as a fair presumption against the origin of the perforation from poison."

"Lastly, let us suppose that the fatal symptoms first showed themselves within half an hour after a meal—a case in which there would be, *cæteris paribus*, the strongest ground to suspect irritant poisoning—we sometimes have it in our power to rebut this suspicion, by a very simple investigation. If others partook of this same meal in company with the deceased, without manifesting any symptoms of disturbance, it would go to disprove the fact of poisoning." Mr. Taylor concludes by stating, that "perforation of the stomach from disease cannot therefore be said to present any difficulty to the medical jurist, unless peritonitis follow. It is the rapid death, under symptoms of violent irritation, from a state of health, that excites suspicion."

There are two important facts worthy of notice, in a medico-legal point of view; first, that ulceration of the stomach may advance to perforation without a single symptom to indicate its presence. Dr. Abercrombie has recorded the case of a "strong and healthy-looking servant girl, aged 21, who was suddenly seized with excruciating pain in the abdomen, sickness, and vomiting, and died in eighteen hours from the attack. In the middle of the smaller curvature of the stomach there was a recent opening, the inner surface of which presented a deep excavation, with rounded and smooth edges; "*this patient was never known to complain of her stomach, or to show the smallest deviation from robust health.*" Secondly, it has been ascertained that a person has walked for a quarter of a mile after being seized with the first alarming symptoms.

[The following communication on this subject, received by Dr. Lees from Dr. Geoghegan, will be read with interest:]

In reply to your inquiries, I beg to observe that the simple or chronic ulcer of the stomach, when followed by perforation, does not, according to my experience, present any very sub-

stantial difficulties in medico-legal practice. It is true that the symptoms have a certain general resemblance to those of irritant poisoning, which, with the fact that they not unusually commence shortly after a meal, has often led to the suspicion of violent death. The real nature of the case, however, seems, in general, easily recognizable, even during life. Thus, the early period of the illness at which pain sets in with intensity (the obvious physical and other characters of the vomited matters meanwhile forbidding the idea of *corrosive* poisoning,) together with the absence of any ulterior manifestations than those of shock and peritonitis, are generally distinctive. When to this are added the general condition and history of the patient, the nature of the attack becomes sufficiently plain. Occasionally, the *length of interval* between the last ingestion of food, drink, &c., and the access of formidable symptoms is, in itself, nearly decisive. Accordingly, I found this latter criterion available in the instance of a gentleman who died of perforating ulcer of the duodenum. Should the case become the subject of medico-legal inquiry, the extreme definition of the ordinary anatomical characters, and the usual site of the ulcer, will, in general, clear up all doubt. The peculiar aspect of the margin, as if a piece had been "punched" out of the coats, the absence of surrounding red areola, and commonly of induration, the want of signs of irritation in the mucous coat at large, are nearly conclusive to the practised eye. It deserves notice, however, that, in a few cases, the condition of the adjacent lining membrane may, at first glance, excite a suspicion of corrosive poisoning, presenting, as it does, patches of dark coloration. This, however, will be found, on closer inspection, to be merely a tract of finer vascular arborescence, acted on by the gastric acids. The comparative *rarity of ulcerative* perforation of the stomach as the result of poisoning, however important as an abstract proposition, can scarcely be considered a safe element of diagnosis, as regards the investigation of individual cases. It may be inferred from the above, that a chemical inquiry will seldom be requisite with a view of determining the origin of such ulcerations; when called for, however, the necessity of occasionally extending it from the stomach and its contents to other quarters (as the liver, &c.) should not be lost sight of. In some instances, especially where the illness has been of unusual duration, the poison, if any, may, by the operation of obvious causes, have been removed from the former, although dis-

coverable elsewhere. It may be not improper, further to observe, as related to the present subject, that although *ulcerative* perforations (for the reasons assigned) do not usually cause material embarrassment, the diagnosis of those arising from digestive *solution* of a portion of the stomachic walls is not always free from difficulty. Thus, in some few instances, a previous uniformly vascular condition of the mucous membrane gives rise, under the *post mortem* influence of the digestive fluids, to appearances which strongly simulate those of poisoning by sulphuric or oxalic acid. A notable example of this kind presented itself in the judicial inspection of the body of a newborn infant, in which I was some time since engaged. As the history was wanting, a chemical inquiry became necessary, and effectually dispelled the presumption created by the character of the appearances.—*Dub. Hos. Gas.*

SUPRA-RENAL CAPSULES.

Translated and condensed from the French. By M. MORTON DOWLER, M. D., New Orleans.

Gazette Hebdomadaire de Médecine et de Chirurgie; September 12, 1856. Academy of Medicine.—*Experimental Philosophy*: Note on the ablation of the supra-renal capsules. By M. GRATIOLET.—The author recalled the experiments which he had made in the course of the winter of 1853-4, exclusively on Guinea-pigs, with a view of studying the functions of the supra-renal capsules.

I. Of the animals operated on in the right side:—From this first series of experiments his conclusions are; 1, that in itself, the ablation of a supra-renal capsule in Guinea-pigs, does not produce death; 2, that it does not necessarily produce convulsions; 3, that the supra-renal capsules when wounded, readily cicatrize and are cured.

II. Of the animals operated on in both sides at once:—All have died within the forty-eight hours next succeeding the operation, with evidence of hepatitis and peritonitis.

III. Of the animals operated on in the right capsule only:—All died in the same space of time and with the same lesions.

M. Gratiolet, in proceeding to the interpretation of these facts, thinks that death which follows the ablation of the right capsule, does not result from its absence as a supra-renal capsule, but, rather from its anatomical relations with the root of the liver, and with the

vena cava inferior, with which it is so intimately connected. It may then be considered that death is sufficiently accounted for by the development of hepatitis and peritonitis.

If death be, then, so constant after the ablation of the right capsule, we may *a fortiori*, expect a fatal result after removal of both supra-renal capsules.

[These experiments present a very different showing from those of M. Brown-Séguard, the deductions from which we translate from *L'Union Médicale*, as presented to the Academy, by M. Trousseau, at the sitting of August 26, 1856.—*Trans.*]

M. Brown-Séguard concludes:—

1. That these capsules have great sensibility.
2. They gain both in weight and volume, from birth to adult age, so that they cannot be regarded as vestiges of embryonic organs.
3. The extirpation of both capsules, kills the animal almost as certainly as, and even more rapidly than, the extirpation of the two kidneys. M. Brown-Séguard has experimented on sixty animals, and has seen death take place in eleven hours and a half after extirpation.
4. The duration of survival does not exceed seventeen hours, when only one of the capsules has been extirpated.
5. In none of these cases could death be attributed to hæmorrhage, peritonitis, lesion of the liver, or any other important organ situated in the vicinity of the capsules.
6. The lesion of the semilunar ganglion, (which is otherwise rarely implicated in the extirpation,) causes palpitations of the heart, but does not cause rapid death in animals.
7. When the two capsules are extirpated, a series of phenomena are observed, which are pretty constant, to wit: an excessive feebleness; a respiration, at first very active, but soon becoming slow, sighing, irregular; acceleration of the heart's action; a lowering of the temperature; and at the approach of death, nervous phenomena, as vertigo, convulsions, coma, etc.
8. A single capsule being extirpated, the same symptoms are produced, but more slowly; and after the first period during which the animal seems to recuperate; when convulsions are produced, they occur on the side on which the extirpation has been practised, and the animal is seen to turn, gimblet-like, on itself, as after one of the middle cerebellar peduncles is divided, and this rotatory movement takes place from the side operated on, towards the sound side.
9. There exists among the rabbits, in Paris,

an enzoötic or epizoötic, characterized by an inflammation of the supra-renal capsules—an inflammation which produces the same effects as the extirpation of these organs.

10. The blood of the diseased rabbits injected into other rabbits; brought about a disease similar to those which result from extirpation and inflammation of the supra-renal capsules.

11. Wounds of the spinal marrow, as have been shown by M. Brown-Séguard, as early as 1851, occasion a hyperæmia of the capsules, whence may result either hypertrophy or violent inflammation, under which the rabbits speedily succumb.

At a late sitting of the Academy, M. Bouillaud severely examined the experiments of M. Brown-Séguard, in relation to the effects on mutilation—the pricking the organs, the tearing, crushing, uprooting, etc., of the supra-renal capsules. These, it will be remembered, continues the editor of *L'Union*, were spoken of by M. Bouillaud, as *amusing physiological experiments*!—Amusing! Certainly not amusing for the poor animals—a hundred of them! which have undergone this discipline! This astonished every one, and especially M. Brown-Séguard, and that able physiologist disavowed all intention of *amusing* M. Bouillaud.*—(*L'Union Médicale*, Sept. 4, 1856.)

At a subsequent session, M. Brown-Séguard addressed a letter to the Academy, touching the experiments which had been criticised by M. Bouillaud, *en disant qu'elles étaient de la physiologie amusante*. His letter ends with the following conclusions; 1, the study of the symptoms which succeed the extirpation or the lesions of these organs or portions of these organs, belongs to *serious* physiology; 2, the functions of the supra-renal capsules, though yet undetermined, are indispensable to the maintenance of life, and appear to be even more important than the functions of the kidneys; 3, the preceding proposition,

* It seems that the solemnity of the Academy is not perennial, being occasionally enlivened by a witty, jocose, or eccentric member, who dissipates the *ennui* engendered by too much learning, as in the following scientific *divertissement*. We have heard various apologies offered by public speakers and lecturers for the length of their discourses; but the apology of the celebrated M. Ricord, for detaining the Academy on a late occasion, is perfectly *sui generis* and specific. A discussion arose in which MM. Gilbert, Malgaigne, and Ricord, took part, touching the appropriate mode of operating in case of congenital preternatural elongation of the prepuce, which occupied much time. M. Ricord, in warmly debating the point with M. Malgaigne, said:—“*J'en demande pardon à l'Académie; si cette discussion se prolonge, la faute en est à la longueur du prépuce.*”

“I beg pardon of the Academy; if this discussion has become lengthened out, it is owing to the length of the prepuce.”—(*Trans.*)

supported, as it is, on a very great number of experiments, is a first step made towards a knowledge of the functions of the supra-renal capsules.—(*L'Union Médicale*, Sept. 4.)—*New Orl. Med. & Phys. Jour.*

LIFE OF GERHARDT.

The same week witnessed in France and England the death of two distinguished geologists, Buckland in one and Prévost in the other, both more than seventy years of age. These two learned men lived long enough to see the triumph of their views, and reap the fruits of their labors. But what have we to say of the young man, strong and full of health, who but yesterday made a great sensation by the profundity of his conceptions, the novelty of his ideas, and the brilliancy of his discoveries, and who has fallen at the age of forty years, almost without having been ill? Gerhardt closed his eyes the very day after giving up the last proof-sheet of his *Traité de Chimie Organique*, a continuation of the work of Berzelius. On the 19th of August, in consequence of an acute peritonitis, he died at Strasbourg, where he occupied the Chair of Chemistry in the Faculty of Science.

Born at Strasbourg, Aug. 21, 1816, he was destined by his father for trade, as a manufacturer of white lead; but like Laurent* he showed no liking for that career, and made every effort to extricate himself. He had acquired some notions of chemistry at the gymnasium of Strasbourg, where he had studied, and often applied himself to questions which the state of the science did not enable him to settle. At eighteen years of age he was directed by his father to travel at the expense of a business house, for the sake of selling their manufactures. This employment of travelling clerk, though not congenial to him, gave him an opportunity to satisfy partially his inquiring spirit. It was thus that he reached Leipsic, where he sought out Prof. Erdmann, who admitted him to his laboratory. At this time he had not learned to observe. Endowed with a vivid imagination, he allowed himself to be led by a preconceived idea, and gave to it a degree of confidence not always warranted by facts. His first works especially bear this mark. They drew upon him severe criticism, and were the cause of intemperate

* See the biography of Laurent in this journal, Aug. 1853.

discussions not yet forgotten. These discussions more than once occasioned for him wakeful nights; but they contributed, on the one hand, to call attention to him, and on the other, to make him doubt his speculations, and submit them to experiment before publication. From this time he changed his methods of work, and devoted to the laboratory a part of the time he had passed in his study. In this he was greatly aided by Laurent, who, in adopting his opinions on many questions, especially the constitution of draconic acid, and by admitting his equivalents for it, gave to Gerhardt and his theories an importance which before had been refused.

His first work was a note upon silicates, soon followed by another on the essential oil of elecampane (Helenium), containing extraordinary numbers and formulæ, which afterwards he himself corrected.

After he had learned with Bacon that in experimental science, experiment before everything else must decide, his synthetic and sagacious mind was of great service to him. At the occurrence of some ideas on the constitution of *Salicine*, he made experiments which led him to a new method of preparing salicylic acid. He also prepared the nitrosalicylic acid, and was not slow to suspect its identity with the indigotic acid, which he had never seen. He prepared the latter, and ascertained, in fact, the correctness of his opinion.

Gerhardt was then twenty-five years old. Having quarrelled with his father when he decided to devote himself to science by entering Erdmann's laboratory, he was soon obliged to leave for want of means. He returned to Strasbourg, but not having been able to overcome his father's will, and not being willing to pursue a career to which he was more and more opposed, he cut everything short by becoming a soldier. At nineteen years we see him enrolled in a regiment of lancers, doing military duty, grooming his horse, and mounting guard, while thinking still of chemistry, and vaguely catching glimpses of relations which had not before been suspected.

But if being a travelling clerk was opposed to scientific speculation, military service was still more so. His father yielded, bought him off, persuaded that after this lesson the son would be docile. But the vocation of the young man was determined, and the promises he had made and the remonstrances of his father were alike powerless before his irresistible passion for science.

The year after Gerhardt was at Paris, hav-

ing previously passed some months in Liebig's laboratory at Giessen. Without position or money, he lived by making translations or giving lessons in chemistry. He made the acquaintance of Cahours, and undertook with him researches upon the essential oil of *eumin*, and by means of it a series parallel to that which Laurent had established with benzoic acid. Noticed by Thenard, who, as far as he could, used his influence to give the means of work to young men who appeared to him to love science, he was soon in a condition to continue freely his labors. Thenard did for him in fact what he had done for so many others. He committed to him the chair of chemistry in the Faculty of Sciences at Montpellier, on the 16th of April, 1841. Gerhardt delivered as his inaugural address a remarkable memoir on chemical equivalents, advancing new equivalents, which, rejected then by all the chemists of his time, led him to fruitful results, among which may be mentioned the theory of homologous bodies, first brought out in his *Precis de Chimie Organique*.

As if he foresaw his premature end, Gerhardt was in haste to produce. His communications to the Academy succeeded one another with a rapidity that justified the distrust generally accorded to the results which he announced. Thus did he rudely expiate the errors of this first phase of his scientific career. But, as has been said, he was not at this time the master of his imagination. However, all was not error in his assertions. Gerhardt had seen the truth, in spite of his superficial and imperfect experiments, — as shown by the transformation of the essential oil of mustard into that of garlic, and the formation of nitrous ether by brucine and nitric acid. Much has been said and written against this last announcement, made known in 1844; and about *quinoline* too, a volative and oily alkali, found by Gerhardt in the products of the decomposition of quinine. Nevertheless this alkaloid exists; but as it was the first time that a product of the decomposition of alkaloids had been studied, its composition appeared more than doubtful, its properties having been imperfectly investigated. Emboldened by his imagination, and urged on by other ideas, Gerhardt threw open the subject to discussion by publishing it in the *Comptes Rendus* of the Academy of Sciences.

His inconsiderate publication on the formation of nitrous ether by means of *brucine* is due to a similar cause. Laurent was the first who did not absolutely reject the conclusions

of this research,* so severely criticised by Liebig.†

It is true that at that time nothing allowed him to comprehend, much less to explain, the presence of the radical alcohol in an alkaloid, and before admitting such an opinion, it was right to demand some well-observed facts. The facts were sought for in vain in the memoir. They were afterwards discovered by the pupils of Liebig, who occupied themselves with the subject, on the invitation of their master; their explanation is found in the works of Wurtz and Hofmann, *Sur la formation des bases organiques amminees*.

Gerhardt remained at Montpellier till 1848. His instructions had been attended with moderate success. Hoping for a chair at Paris, he went to the capital at the end of March. This time the expectations of the chemist were entirely at fault. He was deceived, but on the other hand he met Laurent, who during these interviews was appointed to the Mint. Laurent was then arranging a small laboratory, and with characteristic generosity he offered his hospitality to his friend.

Gerhardt now passed all his time in the damp and dark cellar where Laurent laid the foundation of the disease which prematurely caused his end. A great number of works published in common owe their origin to this partnership. Discussion was the order of the day in that laboratory, and it continued in the presence of a third person, competent or not. The crucible had not time to grow cold, but was always on the fire.

Toward the end of Laurent's life, Gerhardt, to increase his resources, opened a laboratory for pupils. This enterprise had but little success, both because of the method which was there pursued, and because of the inattention of the instructor, who seldom appeared, less from want of inclination than from lack of time. For, seeking security where there was none, he had undertaken all sorts of writing, and dissipated his strength in all sorts of directions, solely to be able to meet his engagements. Thus, he agreed to contribute to Bouillet's *Dictionnaire des Lettres des Sciences et des Arts* all that pertained to science, although he knew nothing but chemistry! He undertook translations, wrote short treatises, and thus robbed science forcibly of precious time which he could have rendered more productive if his means of support had been guaranteed.

He remained in this precarious condition till February, 1855, when, by the intervention of Dumas, he was called to the Faculty of Sciences at Strasbourg. One idea governed him from this time,—to prepare a treatise on organic chemistry, in continuation of Berzelius, a work he had commenced four years before, under the following circumstances.

One of his friends, a chemist and somewhat of a physicist, who was also then in adversity, had just made an invention which was full of promise, and the success of which would secure him ease, if not a fortune. This friend awaited only the realization of his hopes, in order to buy up the whole edition of the *Traite de Chimie* (which, in Gerhardt's opinion, had need of recasting), and thus to withdraw it from trade, so as to force its author to make a new edition. He informed Gerhardt of his project, and invited him to enter upon the work without delay. The latter gave no occasion to repeat the proposal, but went to work with his accustomed eagerness, and in two months his work was almost done.

But before his friend was able to carry out the plan, an opportunity offered for completing the French edition of Berzelius. The idea of introducing his views and opinions into the work of his illustrious and terrible adversary pleased Gerhardt as much as the certainty of having for readers, in France, all the readers of the distinguished Swedish chemist. He put himself to the work, making a concession, however, on the subject of his notation. It consisted in marking with a bar the symbol of which the equivalent is represented by two atoms, such as ammonia, which Berzelius represented by Az^2H^6 , and which the partisans of equivalents wrote AzH^3 . To reconcile such different notations, Gerhardt wrote the A and H with a bar across, a manner of writing formulas already employed by Berzelius, and which serves to show that Az and H^3 should be taken twice to represent one equivalent of azote and three of hydrogen.

Aside from this slight concession, Gerhardt presented his views and theories with all the rigidity of system. Knowing the great service which his ideas had already rendered to science, he had the right to believe that their part was not yet ended; only like all innovators he carried his conviction even to fanaticism. Less benevolent than Laurent, he did not allow his pupils to hold other views than his own, but like him he seized every opportunity to make known his ideas; all situations were good for this; but in talking chemistry

* M. Liebig et la Chimie, Revue scientifique et industrielle, 1846.

† M. Gerhardt et la Chimie, ibid, 1845.

he did not ask if his interlocutor understood chemistry, or if he knew of what it treated. If his partner was competent, he often gave answers which provoked reflection, and thus brought light on points before obscure, — the contradictor thus becoming, in the language of another, “*Accoucheur d’Idées*,” and rendering a service which he rarely suspected.

It was thus that the idea of *paramorphism* came to Laurent, at the end of a conversation with a friend of his, a chemist and crystallographer, who designated a particular case of isomorphism by the name of *isomorphisme de transition*. It was thus also that the idea of the chemical series came to Gerhardt, at the conclusion of a conversation with a socialist, and with the botanist Dunal, whom science has just lost.

Nothing gave a premonition of the sudden death of Gerhardt. Five days before his death he had bathed in the Rhine, and had corrected the last proof of his treatise on Organic Chemistry. Several times, however, he happened to say, “Provided I shall be able to finish the publication of my treatise.” Having been on the evening of the 15th of August with Mad. Gerhardt to see the illumination of the Cathedral of Strasbourg, he said, “I shall never see it thus illuminated again,” he returned immediately, complained of colic, and three days afterward he could say like Laurent, “I shall never see the triumph of my ideas.”

Gerhardt had the good fortune to perceive the necessity of having an organ where he might make known his ideas. In 1845, he established the *Comptes Rendus des travaux de Chimie executes aux laboratoires de Bordeaux et de Montpellier*. In these *Comptes Rendus* he also analyzed from his own standpoint, works published by other chemists, and was not slow to raise against himself a general outcry from the freedom of his opinions and the boldness of his criticisms, which, it should be remembered, never went beyond the demands of courtesy, and always left persons out of view in the question. It is known that his adversaries were less generous, and the epithets of deceitful man, and highway robber were lavished on him and Laurent. Justice has for a long time been done him, and those who uttered this injurious language were the first to regret it, and to agree that there was some good in the ideas originally condemned.

His *Comptes Rendus des travaux de Chimie*, a journal full of originality, which will one day command a price like that of the *Memoirs*

d’Arcueil, had a select and discriminating circle of readers. Notwithstanding this, the publisher did not pay his expenses. Gerhardt then offered his aid to the *Journal de Pharmacie et de Chimie*, an important publication which worthily maintained its rank by the side of the *Annales de Chimie et de Physique*, and after 1846 he prepared for that journal, *la Revue des travaux Chimiques publies a l’etranger*, a review which has twice since changed its editor.

In the hope of increasing his resources, by assuming in addition to a chair in the Faculty of Sciences, a chair of Chemistry in the School of Pharmacy at Montpellier, he entered the School of Pharmacy at Strasbourg in 1844. He there sustained a thesis, entitled *Sur la generation d’Ether*, in which he considered ether as a pyrogenous substance. This discussion caused a sensation, because of the difficulties raised by the Professor of Chemistry, then also Director of the School. He was a chemist little known, and jealous especially of young men who promised to distinguish themselves in science. But the objections which he raised against Gerhardt did not prevent his reception as a pharmacist, nor his succession soon after to the same chair of Chemistry. Gerhardt occupied this post at the time of his death.—*Amer. Jour. Sci. and Arts*.

NEW YORK OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

The fourth annual Report presents a detailed account of the doings of that well-sustained and useful institution. From the statistical tables of diseases of the eye and its appendages, it is obvious, that without the gratuitous services of skilful oculists, not only an immense amount of suffering would have remained unmitigated, from bad to worse, but hundreds in the city of New York, who were restored, would have been totally blind, without the assistance which they received.

As one of the curiosities of this department of surgery, the tabular are appended.

The attending surgeons are Mark Stephenson, M. D., 383 Broome street, and 167 E. 14th street, and John P. Garrish, M. D., 860 Broadway, corner 17th street, who appear well qualified for their positions. The experience they are gathering is knowledge for the people. Society will be benefited by their acquirements, and therefore we hope that such

stewards, under Divine Providence, as Peter Cooper, Esq., and his benevolent associates, will continue to give the Hospital their sustaining influence.

Diseases of the Lids and Lachrymal Organs.—Granulated Lids, with Vascular Cornea, 194; Ectropion, or Eversion of the Lids, 6; Entropion, or Inversion of the Lids, 3; Tinea Ciliaris, or Inflammation of the Lids, 54; Wounds of the Lids, 7; Tumors of the Lids, 5; Ptosis, or Inability to open the Lids, 4; Lagophthalmos, or Inability to shut the Lids, 1; Lippitudo, or Sore Lids, 7; Trichiasis, or Inversion of the Eye-Lashes, 5; Erysipelatous Inflammation of the Lids, 4; Hordeolum, or Styte, 8; Symblepharon, or Adhesion of Lids to the Ball, 5; Inflammation of the Lachrymal Sack, 10; Fistulous opening in the Sack, 6; Total, 319.

Diseases of the Conjunctiva, or Covering of the Eye.—Acute and Chronic Inflammation, 220; Catarrhal Inflammation with discharges, 42; Purulent Inflammation with discharges, 12; Gonorrheal Inflammation with discharges, 3; Scrofulous Inflammation, 40; Pustular Inflammation, 48; Tumors on the Conjunctiva, 2; Pterygium of Conjunctiva, 3; Total, 370.

Diseases of the Cornea.—Simple and Scrofulous Inflammation, 20; Opacity of the Cornea, 108; Ulcers of Cornea, 90; Wounds of Cornea, 5; Staphyloma of Cornea, 24; Effusion of Blood into the Anterior Chamber, 3; Hypopium or Matter in the Anterior Chamber, 2; Total, 252.

Diseases of the Coats and Muscles of the Eye.—Inflammation of the Sclerotic Coat, 12; Sclero-Iritis, 4; Inflammation of the Choroid Coat, 2; Staphyloma of the Sclerotic Coat, 6; Ophthalmitis, or Inflammation of all the Coats, 7; Strabismus, or Cross-Eyes, 12; Atrophy of the Eye, 2; Fungus Oculi, 1; Total, 46.

Diseases of the Pupil, Lens, and Optic Nerve.—Inflammation of the Iris, 17; Syphilitic Inflammation of Iris, 4; Aquo-Capsutitis, 2; Adhesions between Iris and Cornea, 8; Prolapsus of Iris, 4; Cataract or Opacity of the Lens, 36; Glaucoma, or Opacity of the Vitreous Humor, 1; Inflammation of the Retina, 3; Amaurosis or Paralysis of the Nerve, 75; Occlusion of the Pupil, 2. Total, 152. Whole number, 1,139.

Results of Treatment.—750 have been cured or relieved.* 81 incurable. 20 de-

clined treatment. 12 removed to Bellevue Hospital. 275 result unknown. 70 remaining under treatment. Total, 1,282.

Recapitulation.—Remaining under treatment, 1st January, 1856, 77; Admitted from 1st January, 1856, to 1st January, 1857, 1,139. Total for year 1856, 1,216. Total from the opening Hospital, in May, 1852, 4,771.

Nativity of the Patients.—Number born in Ireland, 678; in England, 49; in Scotland, 6; in Germany, 40; Spain, 1; United States, 365. Total, 1,139.

January 1, 1857.

CASE OF FOREIGN BODY IN THE LUNGS, FOR SIX YEARS.

BY A. R. TERRY, M. D.

In the summer of 1837, I was consulted by R. R., a young man of about seventeen. He had a constant cough, with moderate mucous expectoration, aggravated by the changeable weather of spring and autumn. The history of the case was as follows: When he was past twelve, in the autumn of 1832, he was biting copper percussion caps, so as to close the open end for the purpose of throwing them into the fire to have them explode. While biting one, it slipped from between his teeth and went down his throat. A slight choking and sense of suffocation ensued, and two or three physicians were called, who, it appears, differed in opinion as to whether the cap had entered the larynx or esophagus, so little inconvenience was experienced. In a few days a slight cough came on, and in two or three months, a moderate hemoptysis occurred. The hemoptysis recurred about twice a year (in spring and autumn); but at no time was he so sick as to be unable to attend to his business (that of a clerk in a store) for more than a few days at a time. He said his growth had been checked in consequence, but I consider this problematical.

The preceding are all the facts which I could learn about the previous history of the case.

Physical examination showed extensive mucous rale in both lungs—and considerable condensation about two inches below the clavicle in the left lung. There was no evidence of a cavity in either lung, and if one existed it must have been very small. The pulse was generally at a healthy standard.

* Many of these were chronic cases, and were obliged to discontinue treatment before a cure could be effected, on account of not being able to support themselves any longer without employment.

Sometimes, when the weather was changeable, the cough would become troublesome, and there would be a little fever. There was some dyspnoea when he exercised briskly. This autumn, he had a slight hemoptysis, and another in the spring of 1838. These two attacks had been very easily combated by the usual means; but during the summer his cough was more troublesome than it had ever been before.

In October, 1838, I was in my office just at dusk, when R. R. rushed in, the blood gushing from his mouth almost in a continuous stream. I have never seen so copious a hemoptysis. As soon as it subsided so that he was able to speak, he told me that he had brought up the percussion cap, and that if I would examine a pool of blood on the sidewalk, opposite a certain window of the store below, he was sure I would find it. After making him comfortable, and making arrangements for conveying him to his lodgings, I took a lantern, and in the very spot he had indicated I found the cap, with the sides of the open end compressed almost together, and, strange to say, with no apparent oxydation.

After the hemorrhage was sufficiently controlled, auscultation showed a cavity of considerable extent in the situation of the condensation before spoken of. The cough became very urgent, and the hemorrhage recurred twice or three times in 24 hours for more than a week; but it was never as profuse as at first. He became excessively reduced, and exhibited all the symptoms of excessive anhemia. After the final cessation of the hemoptysis, a most profuse expectoration of a grayish mucopurulent matter came on, sometimes amounting to more than sixteen ounces a day. This gradually diminished until, in a little over six weeks, it amounted to no more than a few tea-spoonfuls in a day—the cough was nearly gone. At this period of the case no cavity could be found, and before spring the patient was able to resume his usual avocations.

In May, 1839, he had a slight hemoptysis, and another in November; but this, as far as I know, was the end of it. I kept sight of the patient until 1843, and nothing abnormal could be discovered about the lungs, except a slight condensation about the site of the cavity, in the left lung. His health was perfectly good, and the dyspnoea, before spoken of, was entirely gone.

The above case, as a contribution to the history of diseases of the lungs, is in my opinion principally valuable as showing what in-

tense and long-continued irritation and what a large amount of lesion can be endured in this viscus without fatal results, when there is no tendency to tuberculosis.

The treatment of the case has purposely not been detailed. It showed nothing peculiar; my efforts were confined to the checking of the hemorrhage, to equalizing the circulation, and removing irritability by perfect quiet, and the moderate use of anodynes.—*Med. Ind.*

Detroit, Jan., 1857.

AN AUSTRIAN HOSPITAL.

An arrangement was soon made to visit the Hospital. To a medical man this is one of the attractions of Vienna. We soon reached it, and a great affair is it. It has grounds about it, with trees, shrubberies, walks, for the pleasure and good of convalescents; and for those, too, who have incurable disease, such arrangements, such beneficent provisions, are most acceptable. The extent of the Hospital particularly arrested my attention, and I examined its various departments with entire satisfaction. I was introduced to Doctor B., a resident physician, and found in him the same dispositions to favor my views in visiting the house, as his friend and colleague had manifested. I was carried into all the wards, saw all the arrangements for the whole comfort and well-being of the sick, and could not but be highly gratified at the vast provisions for these objects. The wards were perfectly plain in furniture, and the deep-worn floors showed how much they had been used. The walls and ceilings betrayed questionless marks of age. It was clearly a place of business, and a large business too, and that the interest was in that more than in the show-place, provisions of some other institutions of similar objects. It was for the poor,—and for those who cannot so conveniently pass through sickness at home, as in a public charity,—that it was founded, and I doubt not answers its whole purposes. It is a general hospital, in the fullest sense of the word. It is a national hospital, and it does great honor to the Empire, under the patronage of which it had its broad foundation, and has its continued and important existence. There were questions asked, and cheerfully received and answered. Ventilation was one. This, as it seemed to me, was not much regarded here; and the heat of the day, and the number in the wards, made this form of

neglect the more obvious. Both medical officers, whom I accompanied, agreed that it might be improved; but, at the same time, both of them stated what had been observed by each of them, namely, that fatal fever had more frequently occurred in the wards which were the best ventilated; while among the patients in other wards, as in that very one in which I had referred to the subject, no fever had occurred. I stated that what I had seen at Copenhagen had furnished different results. Dr. — said he had received the same statements from Doctor L., of the Copenhagen Hospital, and of its use in the Westminster Hospital in London, and that, from some cause, Dr. Rigby, of that hospital, had given it up, — viz., the method of Dr. Reed. Having completed my visit, (and most grateful am I for such opportunity of seeing so vast, and so important an establishment,) I took my leave. Dr. — could not accompany me, as he was to deliver a lecture to his class, the last of his course. He said he lectured in German, and though it would give him great pleasure to have me present, yet he felt sure that there would be no interest in his lecture to me. I am very sorry, however, that I did not attend it; but having engagements, I left this distinguished Professor, sincerely grateful for his truly valuable attentions. Both he and Dr. — speak English, and so perfectly, that you hardly detect the German in a word they say.—*Physician's Vacation.*

SELECTIONS FROM HIPPOCRATES.

After the equinox and the setting of the Pleiades, a sort of corroding mucus, that opened the head, broke out above the ear; but in him who was with Leocydes, upon the foot; and in Phanodius, upon the toes by the sole.

He, whose tibia was cut, had a blackness come upon the part. The ulcer was large on the outside, and the discharge from the hinder part. When it was cleansed, he was seized with a pain of the side and left breast opposite to it, grew feverish, and died of his fever.

He, who was marked and burned by Antiphilus, was freed from a bilious ardent fever (of that kind which is called *τυφος*) the seventh day. Three days after the crisis or thereabouts he spit blood, recovered, and had a relapse afterwards. His first crisis after this was, as it ought to be, about the setting of the Pleiades; and after their setting his biliousness extended to madness. Another crisis happened the ninth day without a sweat, and he got over it.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(For The Medical World.)

CASES OF LEAD DISEASE, AND THEIR ORIGIN.

BY J. REYNOLDS, M. D.

In February, 1853, I was called to visit R. Clark, a stout, active laboring man, about thirty-five years of age. I found him suffering from severe pains in the back and loins, extending through the sacrum, and especially in the neighborhood of the right groin. He had been suffering for some days, and had been under medical treatment. At times the pain was excruciating, in the course, apparently, of the right ureter, and near the neck of the bladder. The urine was high-colored and scanty, depositing, on standing, a dark sediment. On careful inquiry into the symptoms and history of the case, it occurred to me, that the symptoms resembled those occasioned by the presence of lead in the system.

On inquiry, I found he was a very copious water-drinker, drinking water with his meals, and frequently between his meals, and that he drank water brought into the house through a lead pipe, from a well that stood a short distance from the house. I suggested that he should use water directly from the well outside, and cease to use the water that passed through the lead pipe altogether, and have the pipe taken out of the well as soon as convenient.

After a few days of treatment he recovered, and has been well since.

During the same month, I was called to his father, a farmer, about seventy years old, who besides nearly half a mile from the son, and round him suffering from severe neuralgic pains in the back and limbs, with scanty urine, and some difficulty in micturition, and learned, on inquiry, that the family used water introduced into the house through a lead pipe from a well outside, and that his wife had suffered, at times, from similar symptoms. I advised them to abstain from the use of water taken from the pump in the house. This man shortly recovered from the neuralgic symptoms, but suffers occasionally from difficulty in micturition, probably arising from enlargement of the prostate glands.

On conversing with Mr. F., an intelligent farmer, about fifty years old, who resides a few rods from the elder Mr. Clark, I found

that he had suffered from neuralgic pains, more or less, for years, and that his wife had been a great sufferer for fifteen years, to such a degree as to unfit her, much of the time, for her household duties. She was his second wife, and began to suffer soon after coming to live with him.

His family used water brought through a lead pipe, about ninety feet, from a well. He had found his lead pipe so corroded, that he had been obliged to take it up. He showed me some portions of this pipe, and I found it perforated with holes, and, in places, not not thicker than brown paper, and the whole surface covered with a salt of lead. Since that time, both himself and his wife have enjoyed better health. The next summer, I visited the premises, determined, if possible, to search out the source of the mischief.

The houses referred to stand upon a plain of, perhaps, sixty acres. On the north side of this plain is a hill, or swell of land, rising quite a number of feet. At the southern foot of this hill, the underlying clay crops out on a level with the plain. On the east side of the plain is a valley, or depression, consisting of swamp, or wet meadow, the northern end of which reaches to the hill above-mentioned. In this meadow Mr. F. had made an excavation, perhaps thirty feet in diameter, and eighteen or twenty inches deep, and made use of the mud for manurial purposes, and had found it, when mixed with barn manure, or when spread, unmixed, upon the light, sandy soil of the plain, an excellent and permanent fertilizer. I found upon the border of this excavation, quite a heap of this mud, which had been thrown out some months. After some days of dry weather, the surface of this heap, especially near the bottom, was covered with a whitish efflorescence, in such quantity that it could be seen at a distance. The water was standing, in the excavation, perhaps four or six inches deep. On tasting this water, I found it strongly impregnated with iron, and, at the same time, quite astringent. I collected a quantity of the efflorescence, and, on dissolving it in water, and straining it, to free it from particles of earth, and adding some carbonate of potash, the interior of the phial was soon covered with a deposit of carbonate of iron. Here, then, I had found the source of the evil. The meadow was underlaid with iron ore, of the description called bog iron, and the drainage from the hill, underlaid with clay, reached the surface in this meadow, and, combining with the iron, saturated the soil of the mead-

ow. The wells which penetrated the soil of the plain were supplied from this source. This water, impregnated with sulphate of alumina and sulphate and sulphuret of iron, acted upon the lead of the pipe, forming a salt of lead.

It did not appear that the water containing the salts of alum and iron was injurious to those who used it, until it came in contact with the lead; for, until the lead pipes had been put into the wells, no injury had ever been known from its use; and, upon ceasing to use water introduced into the houses through the lead pipe, the persons injuriously affected, recovered. Pure water—that is, water free from mineral and animal matters, acts so slightly upon lead, that there is little or no danger from its use. But when the sulphates or carbonates of lime, alum, or iron are held in solution in it, these salts are decomposed when in contact with lead, yielding their acids to the lead—thus forming soluble salts of lead. Water from a clay soil, or from soil containing lime or iron, can never be safely conducted through lead pipes.

The physician is constituted, by his office, the health-guardian of his neighborhood. But it is not sufficient for him to study the symptoms of the diseases which he meets with in his daily walks, and their appropriate remedies. He should investigate their causes, and point them out, that, if possible, they may be avoided. There are other than acute diseases, as typhus fever and dysentery, arising from local causes. Chronic diseases, as consumption, rheumatism, neuralgia, and, perhaps, many others, often have a similar origin.

In a dissertation which I read, some time since, before the South Middlesex Medical Society, I illustrated the duty of a physician as a sanitary officer, by reference to the local causes of several diseases. The cases above referred to, afford another illustration of the importance of being thoroughly acquainted with the locality in which the physician resides—with its geological and mineral constitution, as well as with its surface arrangements—its drainage, evaporation, and ventilation.

It may also furnish an illustration of the general proposition, that the careful study of the laws and works of nature is the only safe basis of medical practice. The physician who faithfully devotes himself to this study, may be, in many ways, a benefactor to his race.

Concord, Mass.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. Henry Southy recently received a bequest from his rich patient, the late John Kenyon, of London, of 8000 pounds sterling. The same generous man, remembered in his will, gave 5000 pounds to the London University Hospital.

The impression abroad with some medical observers, that the eating of dried salt codfish is in some way connected with the development of cancer, requires further investigation before that ancient and always considered wholesome food is abandoned.

It seems that no one ever died a natural death, according to some recent sage philosophizings. Even Methuselah was cut short in his youth by trifling, probably, in an unwarrantable manner with his constitution! More learned madness.

Dr. Peter Parker, the American Surgeon who so much astonished the celestials of China by opening blind eyes, extracting diseased bones, amputating limbs and tying the bleeding vessels with waxed threads, instead of dipping the stump into boiling pitch, is now moving in a high ambassadorial sphere, being the resident minister of this government. Who has gone out to occupy his vacant place in the hospital?

Syphilis prevails extensively among the natives of New Mexico. It has been one of the powerful and resistless engines of destruction, leading on rapidly to their extinction.

A very important medical document may be found in that admirable work—the Statistical Report of the sickness and mortality of the U. S. A.,—on the subject of *large doses of Quinine*.

Messrs. S. S. & W. Wood's collection of medical books, New York, is becoming one of the most extensive establishments in this country. Why is not a branch opened in Boston?

Among those who enlisted as common soldiers in the army in 1856, were eight physicians. Three of them were Americans, and five of European origin.

A library of rare value is to be sold at auction, the present Spring, at Gottengen, containing 10,000 volumes. It contains the books that formerly belonged to the professor of anatomy, Herr Wrisberg. There are many curious works on medicine, rare and curious. It ought to be purchased for some Medical College in this country.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, MARCH 11, 1857.

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY IN THE ARMY OF THE U. S.—From the Surgeon General of the U. S. Army, Thomas Lawson, M. D., a magnificent quarto volume has been received, the typographical execution of which reflects great credit upon the printer, while the contents and objects contemplated by the government in the publication, is most honorable to the enlightened intelligence of the high professional functionary, by whose order and under whose auspices, it was prepared.

We are so circumstanced at present, with a collection of matter that should be put in type, that little more than an acknowledgment of the favor can be made. After an opportunity has been had for a deliberate examination of the text, the results of the impression the facts may call up, will be given. It may suffice, therefore, at this period, to say that a resolution of the Senate, in calling for a copy of the statistical report on the mortality and sickness in the army of the United States, on the 16th of June, 1856, was promptly answered by the Secretary of War. This volume of seven hundred and three pages bears this comprehensive title, viz.: a *Statistical Report of the Sickness and Mortality in the Army of the United States, compiled from the Records of the Surgeon General's office; embracing a period of sixteen years, from January, 1839, to January, 1856. Prepared under the direction of Brevet Brigadier General Thomas Lawson, Surgeon General United States Army, by Richard H. Coolidge, M. D., Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Army.*

Surgeon Coolidge is a pattern of literary industry. The other immense work from the same bureau, the *Army Meteorological Register*, bears the impress of his careful hand.

The spirit which animated the Surgeon General to bring this immense collection of army facts in the present form, demands the thanks of the friends of humanity. He desires to diffuse knowledge, by throwing the experience and observations of the medical officers of the army into the common contribution from the profession at large, for the benefit of all. He remarks in a closing note, the objects contemplated were "to encourage in the medical officers the habit of observing and recording facts in medicine and the collateral sciences; and second, to bring them into more direct communion with the medical profession in civil life, by adding their contributions to the general stores of knowledge."

With these preliminary steps, we shall remain silent in regard to this Statistical Report, till it has been properly digested. Perhaps it is allowable to rejoice in the improvements discoverable within the past two

years, in the quality of the paper, clearness of the type, and quality of the binding of the first class of public documents in the city of Washington.

HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY HOUSES.—No fact is better established than this, viz., that dwellings so located as not to have the direct rays of the sun, on either side, are not to be compared to those on which the light is freely admitted. There is more sickness in shaded houses than in those about which light and air circulate. But the worst of all houses, and those where the greatest amount of sickness is recognized, taken for a series of years, will probably be found in such as have basement stories. They cannot be so constructed when any of the rooms for family purposes are below the land or sheet level, as not to be objectionable in many respects, independently of the first of all considerations, health. Builders are constantly violating a law of health in cities, by persisting in the erection of basement stories, and no arguments have been successful in persuading them to keep the kitchens, breakfast and dining rooms above ground. It is quite time that some municipal regulations were instituted in reference to this important point. Besides the confined gases, gatherings of dampness, leakages of pipes, fetid air under the floors,—the concealment of vermin, discoloration of paint, and the difficulty that sooner or later is discoverable in the drainage—the erection of houses with underground basements should not be encouraged.

NO SICKNESS.—No persons are more gratified at intelligence like this, that it is a time of almost universal good health, than physicians. It is mainly due to an observance of the rules they prescribe, that this happy state of the public health has been attained.

When the people are willing to be advised by those who are conversant with the principles, on the observance of which, an exemption from sickness somewhat depends, instead of dosing themselves and dabbling with quack preparations, they may calculate upon an increase of years, and fewer aches and pains—the penalties, invariably, of violation of some vital law.

It is a lamentable misfortune for individuals to settle down upon what they suppose to be an absolute fact, viz.: that they understand their own constitution. They impose upon nobody but themselves. The consequence of such infallible knowledge of the processes going on within their complicated animal structure often leads to a derangement of the functions and organs in the unwise attempt to keep them in order.

Never take drugs without the advice of a competent medical practitioner; and whether it is agreeable or not to follow his direction, by no means allow a crude theory, based upon no rational data, interfere with his advice.

Were physicians to treat patients as invalids abuse themselves, under the mistaken idea that they understand their sensations better than those who make the phenomena of disease the all-absorbing pursuit of life, the courts of law would demand investigations.

Public health is really of higher importance than individual cases of sickness. Local trade, commercial intercourse with foreign nations, and, in short, whatever is gained for the prosperity of a community, either in town or country, are essentially influenced by the stability of the public health.

These considerations have given rise to a distinct branch of sanitary researches within the last twenty years. Sewerage, the introduction of water from pure sources, and the removal of all decomposing matter from the midst of densely settled districts, occupy a high order of minds in the halls of legislation. And if still further explorations were instituted by the State governments, to secure the people from the surprisals of epidemics, often developed or propagated through the negligent administration of those whose express duty is to remove all probable sources of disease from narrow streets, confined yards and damp houses, it would be a notable achievement.

DEATHS REPORTED AT CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 28.

Frederick Quant 10 days, Patrick Lalor 5 do, Mary Harvey 2 mos, Thomas F. Logan 15 do, Frank Stiles 15 do, Robert Butler 2 do, John Crowley 19 do, Alfred J. Cullen 2 yrs, Wm. S. Foster 62 do, Mary Walsh 35 do, Daniel E. Dennett 21 do, Mary Firnedadi 24 do, Christina Kappler 44 do, Eliza K. Stone 55 do, Mary Daley 3 do, Wm. Chase 30 do, Francis M. Bassin 45 do, John T. McGivney 6 do, Deborah D. Oakes 82 do, Eveline J. Torrey 13 do, Susan Tolman 31 do, George H. Shute 2 do, Emma Burden 3 do, Frances E. Brown 1 mo, James W. Cram 3 mos, Mary Patten 8 do, Michael Cromwell 38 do, Thomas W. Ball 80 do, Sarah Gray 91 do, Mary Lawless 36 do, Henry Bowen 30 do, Arthur B. Steele 2 do, Cornelius Cronan 3 do, Asenath Mallon 31 do, Eliza Smith 56 do, Lillie C. Baker 4 do, Mary Fagan 32 do, John Murray 4 do, Mary E. McCarty 5 do, Cornelius Callahan 3 do, Jane M. Metzger 1 day, Charles H. Hussey 20 mos, Mary A. Lynch 4 do, Sophronia S. Ingersoll 33 yrs, Leonard Dunham jr, 16 do; Frances E. Donovan 15 mos, Carrie Ida Lull 17 do, Wm. E. Archambeau 8 do, Sumner B. Johnson 4 do, Wm. E. Bird 63 yrs, Mary E. Walsh 2 do, George L. Wright 12 do, Geo. F. Springer 2 mos, Julia Driscoll 7 do, James Doherty 1 day, William Coleman 1 do, Hugh Feenan 2 yrs, Daniel Cahill 5 do, Bridget Burke 32 do, Nathaniel Emmes 42 do, Addison Smith 42 do, Elizabeth Miller 32 do, Annie L. Toplis 2 mos.

DISEASES.—Accidents 2, consumption 12, convulsions 4, croup 2, dropsy 2, dropsy in head 6, infantile diseases 4, unknown do, 3, scarlet fever 11, disease of heart 2, inflammation of lungs 2; other diseases, 1 each, 13. Total 63. Males 32, females 31. 51 were born in United States, 5 in Ireland, 2 in England, 2 in British Provinces, and 3 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

MARCH 18, 1857.

NUMBER 25.

POPULAR MEDICAL ERRORS.

BY JAMES BOWER HARRISON, M. D.

When I commenced practice as a surgeon, I found that popular notions on medical subjects exercised a considerable influence on the minds of many well-educated people, and to some extent interfered with their ready concurrence in the views of their medical advisers. In some cases I took pains to explain what are considered the more correct and scientific views, but I was not always successful in combating notions which seemed to have the authority of ages, and the suffrages of all mankind in their favor. Thus I had frequently the great mortification of finding my explanations received with incredulity and distrust, and at times even with an open denial, when an experienced nurse or aged matron conceived her wisdom to be called in question. At length the idea suggested itself of noting down the common ideas entertained on many of the subjects in question, with a view to inquiring how far they may be deserving of credit. It could not well escape me, that many doctrines, which had long been regarded as vulgar errors, have again been received into favor, or have been found to contain the germs of valuable discoveries.

There could not well be a more striking instance of this than the introduction of vaccine inoculation. Dr. Baron states that whilst Jenner was a young man, engaged in pursuing his professional education at the house of his master, at Sodbury, a young countrywoman applied for advice. The subject of the small pox was casually mentioned in her presence, when she at once remarked, "I cannot take that disease, for I have had the cow-pox."¹ Now it was a popular notion in the district, that

those who had been the subjects of the cow-pox were not liable to the small-pox. The idea, ridiculous as it might seem to superficial thinkers, engaged the attention of Jenner, and he set himself about inquiring into the truth of the matter, and by his persevering and patient inquiries, accomplished the greatest discovery which has perhaps ever benefited mankind. In one of Jenner's note-books of 1799, he says, "I know no direct allusion to this disease in any ancient writer, yet the following seems not very distantly to bear upon it. When the Duchess of Cleaveland was taunted by her companions, Moll Davis, (Lady Mary Davis,) and others, that she might soon have to deplore the loss of that beauty which was then her boast, (the small-pox at that time raging in London,) she made a reply to this effect, "that she had no fear about the matter, for she had had a disorder which would prevent her from ever catching the small-pox."²

In 1646, Sir Thomas Browne, the author of the "Religio Medici," wrote his book called, "Inquiries into Vulgar and Common Errors." In the preface the author speaks of the difficulties of the undertaking in a style which is both quaint and amusing. "We hope," says he, "it will not be unconsidered that we find no open track or constant manuduction in this labyrinth, but are oftentimes fain to wander the *America* and untravelled parts of truth. And wherefore we are oftentimes constrained to stand alone against the strength of opinion, and to meet the Goliath and giant of authority, with contemptible pebbles and feeble arguments, drawn from the scrip and slender stock of ourselves." Some of the errors which this grave writer set himself about exploding, with so much appearance of erudition, would only make us smile in these days of science and learning. Thus he controverts the absurd idea that a bear licks her cubs into shape, and endeavors

1. See Baron's Life of Jenner, vol. 1, p. 122.

2. Op. cit. p. 263.

to show how it is to be explained "that a man becomes hoarse or dumb if a wolf have the advantage first to eye him."

It seems, however, that Sir Thomas Browne was himself by no means superior to the many prejudices of his own day. "It is singular," says one of his biographers, "that notwithstanding his zeal to detect old errors, he seems not very easy to admit new positions, for he never mentions the motion of the earth but with contempt and ridicule, though the opinion which admits it was then growing popular, and was surely plausible, even before it was confirmed as an established truth by later observations."³

Many of the expressions commonly made use of in speaking on medical subjects might be changed with advantage to suit more rational views. Some of them, it is true, are only used metaphorically, and it would not therefore be fair to censure them too rigidly. We hear of the seeds of a disease lurking in the system—of a complaint flying about, and finally settling upon a particular organ; and these phrases, though for the most part used vaguely, have to a certain extent a bias over the thoughts. There can be but little doubt that very many of the vulgar opinions were in reality at one period the established doctrines of the day; for in this, as in many other cases, it has happened that the better informed part of mankind have forsaken the doctrines they promulgated, by the time the people become familiar with them.⁴ It is the same with the fashions of our dress, and the pronunciation and choice of our words, the generality of mankind being of necessity more slow both to adopt and reject particular usages and customs. To a certain extent, therefore, they furnish a sort of salutary drag on the more volatile portion of society. Some of the old notions which have already become sufficiently exploded, are still embalmed, as it were, in our language and common forms of expression. We speak of a "tender heart," and "a true-hearted friend," as though this organ were the seat of the mind. Then we read in scripture of "bowels of compassion," and the words "melancholy choler," and the "spleen," when used for ill-temper, are farther examples of words taking their origin in the theories of a former day.

Much ingenuity and learning might be displayed in searching out and collecting into a focus the peculiar notions of former times, but this would be a work of considerable extent,

and more curious and entertaining than useful. For my part I wish to comment upon the opinions which now actually influence the minds of the public, or give a coloring to their views of disease. Simple as many of them may seem, they are the secret springs which determine the views of people, often in opposition to the dictates of their professional advisers. On this account, therefore, they must be treated with respect—a respect which they deserve from their influence, if not from their justness. I have purposely, then, brought forward the opinions which I have found to be the most prevalent and the most influential, without any reference to their plausibility or ingenuity, and in preference to the discussion of others, which might have admitted of more scope for entertainment or professional research. On this account I must be excused for speaking of many things which are simple, and perhaps ludicrous and commonplace, and also for passing by many subjects which are rich in matter for curiosity and entertainment, as well as the display of such literary industry as might be devoted to them.

I shall now proceed to the consideration of the several common errors which have presented themselves to my mind, making on each a few very brief remarks, but such as I imagine may be sufficient, without being tedious.

I am quite aware that there are very many (not to speak of professional readers) to whom all these explanations may be altogether unnecessary, but I am sure I shall have their indulgence, if the comments which I make are only acceptable to others. To all, notions which are common must, as such, be of *some* interest, whatever may be their absurdity, and the remarks made on them may at least serve to connect them together.

In the course of this paper, then, I shall have to introduce many common-places; but this, it must be remembered, is inseparable from the subject. I may also state that I have purposely chosen to treat the subject in a plain, and somewhat colloquial style; for it seems to me that common ideas are best explained in a familiar manner, and that popular notions are best embodied in the language in which they are usually delivered.

Lunatics.—There is a common notion that lunatics are influenced by the moon. The term lunatic was no doubt given to insane people from the supposed influence of the moon in producing madness. This opinion is in some degree preserved by the continued use of the term lunatic, as well as by that fondness

3. Lives of British Physicians, Family Library, p. 72.

4. They are the fossil words and phrases which show us the vestiges of decayed opinions.

for the marvellous which is so common to all mankind. Even at the present day, people will shake their heads and allude significantly to the full of the moon. "Poor ——," they will say, "is a little out of sorts just now; but then, it is the full of the moon next Thursday." There does not appear to be any real ground for the belief that the moon exercises this baneful influence on the human mind, although it is acknowledged that insane people are usually somewhat more than ordinarily restless at the full of the moon. The celebrated French writer, Esquirol, attributes this to the effect of the increased light, and states that the break of day occasions a similar agitation. "Light," he asserts, "frightens some lunatics, pleases others, but agitates all."⁵

Of Seasons.—There is a very common, and very old notion, that what are called *cooling medicines*, should be taken at particular seasons of the year, especially in the spring. Every practitioner will occasionally be consulted on this subject, and very often a great disposition is shown by medical men to fall in with popular views. Many a poor child has been condemned to a pot of brimstone and treacle, merely because it was the spring-time. I imagine, parents are not always ready to carry out these views in their own cases. Hippocrates advocates such a system in his 47th aphorism, section vi. "If bleeding or purging be requisite," says he, "spring is the most convenient time for either." He repeats the same view in other places. There was a great deal of importance attached to seasons, in the treatment of diseases, by the old medical authorities; but we find very little on this subject in our best modern works. For my part, I do not see why we should take physic unless we are ill. The public have very curious, and, I should think, very ill-defined ideas of cooling physic, and of medicines for purifying the blood. That the ancients set considerable importance on seasons, will appear from the most casual inspection of their works. Thus Aetius, in his directions for the cure of the gout, laid down a distinct regimen for each month. "In September, the diet should be wholly milk; in November, bathing is prohibited; in December, cabbage; in January, the patient should take a glass of pure wine every morning; in February, he must not eat beet; in March, he must mix sweets both with his eatables and drinkables; in April, he must refrain from horse-radish; and in May, from the fish called polypus; in June, he

must take cold water in the morning; in July, abstinence must be practised; in August, he must not eat mallows."⁶

Hair.—That hair turns grey in a single night. In a popular but able treatise on diseases of the skin (by Erasmus Wilson⁷), this subject is alluded to in the following terms: "Much less can I give credit to the bleaching of the hair in a single night or a single week. The first step in the change may have been made in a single night, and on that night week the whole of the hairs of the head may have become white at *their roots*; this is perfectly possible, and the only reasonable explanation of the circumstance. Thus we learn that Marie Antoinette became grey in a short period, as did the unfortunate Mary, Queen of Scots." He alludes to the passage in the "Prisoner of Chillon," showing that the error has the weight of poetical authority in its favor—

"My hair is grey, though not with years,
Nor grew it white
In a single night,
As men's have grown from sudden fears."

After proceeding to relate several amusing cases of this repeated bleaching of the hair, he goes on to speak of another common error with respect to the hair⁸—"A prevalent belief, strengthened by the opinion of several modern French writers on this subject, is, that the hair grows after death. It is true that they lengthen, but their lengthening results from the contraction of the skin towards their roots, and not from the continuance of a vital power after the death of the individual. But the older writers outstrip the moderns in invention, for in the "Philosophical Collections," Wulfenis gives the account of a woman buried at Nuremburg, whose grave being opened forty-three years after her death, "there was hair found issuing forth plentifully through the clefts of the coffin, insomuch that there was some reason to imagine the coffin had some time been covered all over with hair." Mr Arnold gives "the relation of a man hanged for theft, who in a little time, while he yet hung upon the gallows, had his body strangely covered over with hairs."

Jaundice.—There is a common saying (I will scarcely venture to call it an opinion) that jaundiced people see things yellow. How common to hear of the jaundiced eye, as another word for prejudice! it being of course implied that the subject sees through a colored medium.

6. Hamilton's History of Medicine, vol. 1, p. 174.

7. Wilson on Healthy Skin, p. 94.

8. Op. cit. p. 100.

5. Berk's Medical Jurisprudence, p. 425.

It occasionally does happen that a person having the jaundice sees objects yellow, but this is rather the exception than the rule, and seems to be dependent on some enlarged and tortuous vessel crossing the transparent part of the eye, when the vision has been previously impaired by some disease. Dr. Watson mentions this subject in his invaluable lectures on the Practice of Physic.⁹ "You are aware," says he, "of the vulgar notion that to a jaundiced eye all things appear yellow. It is an old notion, for we find it expressed by Survetius—'*surida præterea fiunt quæcunque tuentur arquati.*' Heberden was disposed to regard this as a mere poetical fiction, but certainly it is sometimes, though very rarely indeed, a fact." He goes on to say that he has been assured by a medical man of his own acquaintance that objects appeared colored to him in his own experience of the complaint; also, that Dr. Mason Good saw things yellow when he was jaundiced. Dr. Elliotson also relates one or two cases. In 1826 he had a case in St. Thomas's hospital, where there was a slight opacity of the transparent part of one eye, through which ran two large vessels, and with this eye the patient saw yellow, but with the other eye he saw things of their natural color. In 1827 he had a patient who saw things yellow with both eyes, but he had inflammation of the eyes. In 1831 he had another case. He further mentions that Dr. Pemberton saw this occurrence twice; but sufficient has been said, and the explanation seems to me satisfactory, namely, that in the cases where the objects appear yellow, there must exist some inflammation of the cornea, or some opacity with enlarged vessels.

Of Constitution.—Fortunately people are in general more disposed to consider their constitutional powers good than otherwise, and this in a degree that would be amusing, if it were not for the gravity of the subject. A patient will say to you, "Really, doctor, I have never known what it is to have a moment's entire ease these many years; I must have had an excellent constitution originally; and do you know, it is my firm opinion that I'm sound yet. If I could only get rid of this cough I should be quite well." Speeches of this kind are made over and over again by people who have every possible appearance of having the worst constitutions imaginable, and in fact have had every possible evidence themselves of such imperfection of physical power. Some of the most confirmed forms of scrofula

show themselves by a succession of slow diseased actions—inflammation of the eyes, enlargements of the glands of the neck, abscesses, diseased hips, and perhaps finally consumption—and these are the people who must have had originally excellent constitutions! The more they have suffered, and do suffer, the more they praise their constitutions; they imagine that the diseases have come, one after another, like the ghosts in Macbeth—

"Another—and yet a seventh: I'll see no more—
And yet the eighth appears."

It never enters their minds that a poor constitution is the cause of all these visitations, rather than the bulwark against which they are impotently directed.

Of Consumption.—That consumption is catching is a popular opinion, which, in this country at least, is not recognized by the profession. I believe such an opinion, however, to be greatly entertained in some parts of the continent, especially in Spain, Portugal, and Italy. They even burn the clothes of those who have died of the disease, to prevent risk of contagion. It is true that a husband and wife will every now and then die consecutively of this complaint; but this is not more than we should have been led to expect *a priori*; for it not unfrequently must happen that consumptive families will intermarry. I think, indeed, the frequency of these cases of apparent contagion is not greater than what might be supposed likely to occur from mere coincidence in a disease which is so widely diffused. It must be admitted, also, that the anxiety and grief experienced by the survivor in case of the first death will do much to hasten the complaint; and thus the appearance of contagion will be heightened by the rapidity of the succession. Further, there is an idea prevalent that a consumption is cured by an asthma. I conceive this to be altogether erroneous. Asthmatic people are no doubt often thought by the public to be consumptive; and it then becomes a matter of surprise that these people continue to live year after year. Sometimes these asthmatic people *do* die in the end consumptive. Supposing, indeed, that a few asthmatic people are found after death to have had tubercles in the lungs, it is scarcely logical to infer that the consumption would have been more rapidly developed if the asthma had not existed. Because those who have asthma in its most marked form do not necessarily become consumptive, is no proof that the asthma prevents consumption. I think the great bulk of consumptive people would be found free from gout; but are we

⁹ Watson's Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, vol. 2, p. 522.

therefore to try to induce gout in order to prevent consumption? My own idea of this opinion about asthma curing consumption, is, not only that it is an error, but that it is one calculated to do much mischief. There is also a notion that an ague cures consumption. This is equally ridiculous. There are, in fact, many cases of consumption in the aguish districts. The ague has indeed often been reputed as a curative agent. An attack of the ague may probably have put a stop to some nervous and other complaints. Dr. Elliotson states, "that ague has been thought so capital a thing, that some writers contend it never should be cured," and a proverb once prevailed that

"An ague in spring
Is fit for a king."

He mentions that Dr. Gregory saw a case of palpitation cured by it,¹⁰ and that Dr. Fordyce had known many cases cured by it. However, I should myself be very sorry to try it, and I should be very skeptical of its doing real good in any case.

Proud Flesh.—Patients will frequently come to us to know if there is any proud flesh in their wounds. The fear of proud flesh is very general, and brings many patients to the doctor whom he would otherwise never see. When a wound is attended with loss of substance, it is gradually filled up by the growth of the surrounding parts—a process which is called granulation, from the grain-like surface it presents. The granulations sometimes rise above the level of the surface, and I suppose the term "proud flesh" was given to this appearance as a figurative term for a luxuriant or forward growth. There is really nothing bad or malignant, as it is called, in the elevation, but it is rather indicative of a complete and rapid repair. There are, it is true, complaints which are attended with what are named malignant fungous growths; but they are happily very rare, and quite unconnected with the healing of common sores. I shall not dwell, however, upon the latter, as it would carry me on to the description of a disease which is out of my present province. It is, perhaps, after all, almost a pity to disabuse the public mind of the idea of proud flesh, for it is friendly to the doctors, and may tend to induce the people to have their sores better looked after.

Broke a Blood-vessel.—The phrase "broke a blood-vessel," is very common, and I imagine that it is commonly supposed, in the case of

spitting of blood, that a large blood-vessel has given way in the lungs. Blood-vessels *do* sometimes become diseased, and give way, but in the great number of instances in which spitting of blood arises, the blood is exuded from the surface, as it is in bleeding at the nose. On inspection after death of the greater part of the bodies of those who have lost large quantities of blood by spitting, no trace has been discovered of any ruptured vessel, so that the term is not to be considered literal in its application to the ordinary cases of spitting of blood. In apoplexy, however, it is often found that a blood-vessel has actually given way in the brain, and the clot is discovered after death; so that if we spoke of this *latter* complaint as the breaking of a blood-vessel, we should be more likely to be correct.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The ceremonies of a Commencement took place on Wednesday last, in Boston.

The Medical Faculty of the University were present, several invited guests, the graduating class, and about one hundred medical savans and practitioners. President Walker occupied the chair, supported on his right by Lieut. Gov. Benchley, and on his left by members of the Faculty and of the Board of Overseers of the University.

Dissertations were then read by members of the Graduating Class, as follows:

1. Tetanus—Thomas Walter Leach, Boston.
2. Typhoid Fever—Leonard Edward Richardson, Newport, N. H.
3. Simple Erysipelas—Lucius Manlius Sargent, Jr., Roxbury.
5. Gangrene of the Lungs—Alexander Doull Sinclair, Boston.
5. Bilious Remittent Fever—Anton William Tiader, Cronstadt, Russia.
6. Puerperal Peritonitis—Austin White Thompson, Northampton.

The Medical Degree was then conferred by Rev. Dr. Walker, on the members of the graduating class, as follows: Benjamin Campbell, Arthur Harris Cowerey, James Dickson, William Grey Disbow, John Moses Emerson, Thomas Walter Leach, George William Kittridge, John Hancock Kimball, Deodadt Mig-

10. Elliotson's Lectures on the Practice of Physic, p. 274.

nault, Selden Fletcher Neal, Leonard Edmund Richardson, Lucius Manlius Sargent, Jr., Alexander Doull Sinclair, John Davidson Taylor, Austin White Thompson, William Abrams Thompson, Anton William Tiader.

The exercises were closed with an address to the newly constituted Doctors of Medicine by Dr. J. B. Jackson. He commenced by impressing upon them, that though they acquired sufficient knowledge to enable them to enter upon the practice of medicine, they must remember that they must still prosecute their studies with vigilance—says the *Bee*. In older times it was the practice of physicians to write the history of epidemics, and nothing can surpass some of these descriptions which have come down to us. It is the habit now to record individual cases. The reports of single cases have no great value compared to the descriptions alluded to above, and there is now a rare opportunity to describe the recent epidemic of scarlet fever in this city. It is not too late to accomplish the task, and he expressed the hope that some of the young gentlemen before him would do so. The young practitioner should have a well-assorted library. The well-conducted medical journals of the day should be attentively read. He should also study obscure cases attentively, and confer with other members of the profession concerning them. Dr. Jackson made some pertinent and judicious remarks upon the duties of the members of the medical profession towards each other. Associations for the support of their rights and the elevation of the profession were recommended, but the members were warned against bolstering up unworthy persons belonging to the profession. Quackery was commented upon in appropriate terms. The Professor acknowledged that quackery sometimes creeps into the ranks of the regular profession.

In conclusion, he thought it would be desirable to have fewer men and higher attainments in the profession, yet, as things were, this seems to be impracticable. The high social position to which the physician may attain in this country, leads many into the medical profession.

In the evening, a brilliant entertainment was given by the Faculty at the Tremont House, which was attended by the prominent medical gentlemen of the city and neighboring towns and cities, together with others eminent for their learning and position in the various walks of life.

LIFE OF DR. KANE.

Dr. Elisha Kent Kane was born in Philadelphia in 1822. He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, first in its collegiate, and afterwards in its medical department. He went out from his *Alma Mater* a good classical scholar, a good chemist, mineralogist, astronomer, and surgeon. But he lacked, or thought he lacked, robustness of frame and soundness of health. He solicited an appointment in the navy, and upon his admission demanded active service.

He was first appointed as surgeon to the first American embassy to China. During this residence abroad he explored the Philippine Islands, descended into the crater of Tael to its very mouth, being lowered more than 100 feet of the way by a bamboo rope, ascended the Himalayas, walked over Greece, visited Ceylon, the Upper Nile, and all the mythologic region of Egypt.

At the commencement of the Mexican war we find him in the Navy Yard at Philadelphia. But his adventurous spirit could not be satisfied here, and he asked to be removed to a more active field. The government sent him to the coast of Africa. Here he visited the slave factories from Cape Mount to the river Bonny, and succeeded in obtaining access to the baracoons of Dahomey. In this service he contracted the coast fever, from the effects of which he never entirely recovered.

On his return he called on President Polk, and asked an opportunity for engaging in service that accorded with his ambition. He was accordingly sent with dispatches of great importance to General Scott, which must be carried through a region occupied by the enemy. In this service he was dangerously wounded.

When he recovered and returned, he was employed in the Coast Survey. While engaged in this service, the government by its correspondence with Lady Franklin became committed for an attempt at the rescue of Sir John and his ill-starred companions in Arctic discovery. Nothing could be better addressed to the Doctor's governing sentiments than this adventure. The enterprise of Sir John ran exactly in the current of one of his own enthusiasms—the service of natural science combined with heroic personal effort; and, added to this, that sort of patriotism which charges itself with its own full share in the execution of national engagements of honor; and besides this cordial assumption of his country's debts

and duties, there was no little force in the appeal of a nobly brave-spirited woman to the chivalry of the American Navy.

He was "bathing in the tepid waters of the Gulf of Mexico, on the 12th of May, 1850," when he received his telegraphic order to proceed forthwith to New York, for duty upon the Arctic expedition. In nine days from that date he was beyond the limits of the United States, on his dismal voyage to the North Pole. Of this first American expedition, as is well known to the public, he was the surgeon, the naturalist, and the historian. It returned disappointed of its main object, after a winter in the regions of eternal ice and a fifteen months' absence.

Scarcely allowing himself a day to recover from the hardships of this cruise, he set on foot the second attempt, from which he returned, after verifying by actual observation the long questioned existence of an open sea beyond the latitude of 82° and beyond the temperature, also, of 100° below the freezing point. His "Personal Narrative," published early in 1853, recounts the adventures of the first voyage, and discovers his diversified qualifications for such an enterprise.

Before it was completed for the press he had effected his arrangements for the last Arctic expedition, appropriating to this cherished object his own pecuniary resources, as well as drawing largely on those of the scientific institutions of this country. The history of that expedition, and the remarkable discoveries to which it led, are now before the country. They constitute in themselves an imperishable monument to Dr. Kane's fame.

Dr. Kane was about five feet seven inches in height, and usually weighed about one hundred and thirty pounds. Complexion fair, hair brown, eyes dark gray, with a sharp, hawk-like look. He was never robust. With such general health as his, most men would call themselves invalids, and live on furlough from all the active duties of life; yet he has won the distinction of being the first civilized man to stand in latitude $82^{\circ} 30'$ and gaze upon the open Polar Sea—to reach the northernmost point of land on the globe—to report the lowest temperature ever endured—the heaviest sledge journeys ever performed—and the wildest life that civilized man has successfully undergone; and to return after all to tell the story of his adventures.

The secret spring of all this energy was in his religious enthusiasm—discovered alike in the generous spirit of his adventures in pursuit of science, in his enthusiastic fidelity to duty,

and in his heroic maintenance of the point of honor in all his intercourse with men.

It is a matter of painful regret that the source of his greatest renown should also have been the source of the wasting disease by which he has prematurely been called away. Never very strong, the constant hardships to which he was exposed in his last Arctic voyage, were too much for his physical strength. Finding that he did not derive from the climate of England the benefits to his health which he sought, he proceeded to the mild climate of Cuba. But the seeds of disease were too deeply sown. Nothing could arrest its progress. With mind unimpaired, and surrounded by his mother and some intimate friends, he breathed his last on the 16th ult., in the flower of his age, and the enjoyment of a well-earned and world-wide renown.

The funeral of Dr. Kane at Havana was attended by a long procession of all the Americans in the city, as well as by the Vice-Captain General of the island, and many other Spanish Officials.

As the remains were passing through the country on the way to Philadelphia for interment, the highest marks of respect for the character and services of the deceased were manifested.

COMMUNICATIONS.

[Communicated to the Medical World.]

THE INDIA RUBBER TAMPON.

BOSTON, FEB. 28, 1857.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—A discussion on the merits of the India Rubber Vaginal Tampon, in uterine hemorrhage, at a recent meeting of the Boston Society for Medical Observation, has led me to suppose that a description of one of the best forms of this instrument might prove interesting to your readers. The Tampon to which I refer, originated with Dr. Braun, of the lying-in hospital in Vienna. It is used not only as a plug, in hemorrhage, but also as a means of producing dilatation of the os, etc., and is thus applicable in various forms of abnormal gestation. The following is a translation of the most important portions of Dr. Braun's account of his instrument.

A reliable method of producing speedy dilatation of the os uteri, preparatory to the ex-

æresis of the foetus, has always been a great desideratum in various obstetrical operations. To accomplish this purpose, a great variety of methods have hitherto been employed. Of these, the principal are :

1. Perforation of the membranes (Scheel, Meissner).

2. Separation of the chorion from the uterine walls, with the fingers (Hamilton, Davis, Gooch), or with a curved catheter (Rieke).

3. Introduction of prepared sponge into the os (Brünnighausen, Kluge, Simpson, Siebold).

4. Introduction into the vagina of a tampon of charpie (Leroux, Cazeaux, Schöller, Scanzoni), or of a peeled lemon (Moreau), or of a calf's bladder (Hüter of Marburg).

5. Injections of water between the membranes and walls of the uterus (Cohen).

6. Injections of water with the Sphenosphon of Schnakenberg, or with ordinary syringes (Saxtorph, Jörg).

7. Use of the rising uterine douche, a most effective mode of treatment (Kiwisch of Rotteran).

8. Administration of ergot (Ramsbotham and others).

9. Application of electricity and galvanism (Mikschick, Benj. Frank, Dorrington, Simpson).

10. Manual dilation of the os, either with the fingers, or by the introduction of the hand in a conical form (as in accouchement forcé).

11. Instrumental dilatation of the os (Osiander, Busch, Mende).

12. Scarification of the os (Bodin, Velpeau, Kilian, Kiwisch, Scanzoni).

Although the literature of this obstetrical operation is very copious, I nevertheless feel impelled to make known a *very simple, easy, and safe method*, which is different from those just mentioned, and may be applied in a variety of cases.

The apparatus necessary for this purpose consists of a vulcanized india rubber sac, from two to four inches in diameter, ending in an india rubber tube, four inches long, and one-half inch thick. This tube is lined inside with horn, and at its end there is a short brass tube, with a stop-cock and a ring, to which a band is attached.* When it is to be used, the empty india rubber sac is introduced into the vagina, and then gradually distended with

warm or cold water, injected either with a syringe or another sac, made so that they can be attached to the mouth of the brass tube. The band attached to the ring is now fastened to one of the thighs, or around the hips, to oppose any expulsive efforts, and thus we have an elastic tampon, pressing equally on all parts of the vagina.

Our sac, being made of india rubber, *cannot become offensive or putrid*, like one made of animal substance, and, by letting off the water, it can be quickly removed or changed, in a manner perfectly easy, painless and safe. The effect of the curve in the neck of the instrument is that only the upper part of the vagina is distended, and all painful pressure is avoided on the nymphæ, urethra, or any portion of the external organs.

The application of this new method is reliable and satisfactory in the following abnormal conditions :

1. *In hemorrhage, during the first stage of labor, dependent upon placenta prævia, mola hydatidosa, or abortus; and in hemorrhage after removal of the placenta, when the body of the uterus is well contracted, but the source of the hemorrhage is to be found in its lower segment.*

The use of the ordinary tampon for hemorrhage from placenta prævia is earnestly recommended by Wigand, Peuker, Gardien, Monfalcon, Osiander, Busch, Nagele, Ramsbotham, Lee, Scanzoni, and others. Its object is to allay the hemorrhage, increase the labor pains, and, if possible, to avoid the necessity of the dangerous accouchement forcé, and of the separation of the placenta previous to the extraction of the child, as taught by Simpson, Radford and Churchill. But this procedure often fails of a successful result, because the lint becomes saturated with blood, the plug is expelled by an increase in the force of the pains, while the operation itself is very tedious and painful (Kilian).

None of the objections to the ordinary tampon apply to the india rubber plug. The apparatus can be filled with ice water in a few seconds; the pains are excited, and the hemorrhage can be instantly arrested by the gradual pressure, and by the cold, which can be increased by a frequent renewal of the injection. No collection of blood can take place between the walls of the vagina and the india rubber, and an expulsion of the sac is rendered impossible by its attachment, with a band, to the thigh of the patient.

(In 1849 and '50 the india rubber tampon

* The neck of the sac has a curve corresponding with the axis of the pelvis. The whole instrument resembles a retractor very much, in its shape. It is sold in Vienna, at about \$1.50.

was used with success by Dr. Braun, at the Vienna hospital, in two cases of placenta prævia centralis, in two cases of placenta prævia partialis, in one case of mola hydatidosa, and in one case of hemorrhage from lacerated vessels of the cervix, after the ineffectual use of other hæmostatics.—H.)

2. *In shoulder presentations; to produce dilatation of the os, and prevent early rupture of the membranes, as a preparation for version.*

In abnormal positions of the foetus, the too early rupture of the membranes, the os being still undilated, often gives rise to a necessity for the most dangerous operations. It is therefore most important in shoulder presentations, to induce a careful dilatation of the os, and to preserve the integrity of the membranes, until a cephalic version, or version by the feet can be resorted to without danger to the patient.

In transverse positions of the foetus, the cervix is generally occupied at first, not by a presenting part, but by the amniotic fluid. During a pain the chorion is pushed through the os in a conical form, and its rupture is brought about in these cases by the pressure of a long column of fluid. This rupture generally takes place while the os is still undilated, at a time when any effectual operative procedure is still impossible.

This dilemma can be avoided by the use of the india rubber tampon. The tampon, introduced into the vagina, and filled with tepid water, covers the external orifice and prevents the protrusion of the membranes. The hydrostatic pressure which takes place during a pain, is divided equally between the walls of the tampon and the uterus. The tense walls of the tampon, pressing on the softer and more yielding uterine walls, cause a speedy dilatation of the os, at the same time protecting the membranes; and thus the most favorable conditions for version are attained.

(In 1850, this treatment was used at the Vienna hospital in fourteen cases out of thirty-six of transverse positions. The result was that all the children were delivered alive, except one affected with hydrocephalus congenitus, while all the mothers passed through their childbed without accident.—H.)

3. *In contractions of the pelvis with head presentations, to dilate the os, to prevent too early rupture of the membranes, to facilitate the exit of the foetus in turning, as well as the application of forceps, and the performance of perforation.*

In cases of contracted pelvis at full term,

premature rupture of the membranes is likewise apt to take place, while the imperfect dilatation of the os prevents the introduction of the hand for turning, and the use of the forceps or cephalotribe. In these cases the india rubber tampon is also very useful, since it prevents the premature rupture of the membranes, and induces dilatation of the os.

4. *In cases of hernia intestino-vaginalis, to retain the hernia after reposition, and induce labor.*

Cases of hernia vaginalis in the last months of pregnancy are very rare; but a case of this description came under my treatment at the Vienna hospital. The patient, a primipara, twenty-three years old, in the eighth month of pregnancy, entered the hospital, January 10th, 1850. Three weeks before she felt a violent pain on lifting a heavy box, and since then she had noticed a pressing down of the vagina. On the day of her admission she had fallen over some stairs at her dwelling. This was followed by the appearance of a tumor in the vagina, violent pain and fainting, but no nausea or difficulty in the urinary excretion. The tumor was very tense, of a dark bluish-red color, of the size of a man's fist, giving a tympanitic sound on percussion. The gurgling sound of the intestines was but slight, owing to the great tension. The hernia was replaced, the india rubber tampon introduced, but not filled to its full capacity. After this the pain ceased, and two days after, on the morning of January 12th, the tampon was expelled by the advancing head of the child. No return of the hernia was found on a subsequent examination, and in about two weeks the patient was discharged well.

5. *In eclampsia during pregnancy, and in the early stages of labor.*

It is a matter of experience, that puerperal convulsions are most dangerous during pregnancy and in the early periods of labor, and that the violence of the attacks frequently diminishes after the termination of labor.

Relying on these facts, most authors recommend artificial delivery, for the safety of the child, and to diminish the perils of the mother; and often, in urgent cases, nothing can be done but to have recourse to the dangerous accouchement forcé, or instrumental dilatation of the os.

The use of the india rubber tampon, in cases of eclampsia where premature delivery was indicated, has been followed by such favorable results, as to entitle this painless and

safe method to a more extended trial. A strong india rubber tampon being introduced, and filled until quite tense, the vagina is dilated; the irritation of the nerves of the lower uterine segment produces powerful reflex action in the body of the womb; this assists in the development of the lower segment, and causes speedy dilatation of the os, and thus the birth of the foetus, either by turning, or with the aid of the forceps, can be accomplished in a few hours.

The energetic increase of the pains, caused by the tampon, was never found to produce an increase of the violence or rapid recurrence of the convulsions; but, on the contrary, the paroxysms recurred in a manner perfectly independent of the action of the tampon. This is well shown in one of the cases I have reported elsewhere, where two attacks of convulsions occurred before any appearance of labor pains, and before any change in the os. The use of the tampon for four hours caused energetic pains and full dilation of the os, without any return of the convulsions. This speedy dilatation of the os facilitates an operative interference and the birth of a living child, before the mother is attacked by oedema of the lungs, emphysema, or other accidents.

6. *To induce premature delivery in cases of contracted pelvis, or for general diseases of the mother.* (In the same manner as the uterine douche).

The induction of premature delivery with the tampon of charpie has already been recommended by Schöller, but this method has seldom been employed, on account of the laborious manipulations which it demands.

On April 7th, 1851, two cases came to the hospital, in whom the induction of premature delivery was indicated by contracted pelvis. The india rubber tampon was used in one case, and the uterine douche* in the other, for the purpose of comparing the effects of these two modes of treatment. In the first case the tampon was introduced and retained for eight hours, without causing the patient any pain or uneasiness; the labor commenced and had a regular course of twenty-four hours. In the second case the douche was used in two sessions; labor commenced seven hours later, and terminated in sixteen hours. In the first case puerperal fever set in with a fatal termination,

while in the other there was a light attack of perimetritis and hydrops acutus genu. But these unfavorable results cannot fairly be attributed to the operations, which were conducted with equal care in both cases.

Summary of the advantages, and application of the india rubber tampon.

1. The application of the tampon is very simple and easy; it takes but little time and leads to no dangerous accidents; it increases the irritation of the uterine nerves, and causes steady and energetic pains.

2. There being no pressure on the lower portion of the vagina, the use of this tampon cannot be painful, if proper care is taken in filling it, and if it is occasionally removed when necessary.

3. The tampon, like the uterine douche, prepares the lower uterine segment quickly and without injury, and the os is generally dilated in a few hours.

4. No previous treatment is necessary before undertaking this operation.

5. No injury can be done to the membranes or the sexual organs; neither is the foetal life endangered.

6. This method can be used equally well in the first and in subsequent pregnancies.

7. The tampon is a reliable means of arresting hemorrhage and hastening labor in placenta prævia, mola hydatidosa, as well as in cases when abortion cannot be prevented. It is also applicable in hemorrhage from torn vessels of the vagina or cervix, during labor.

8. In uncertain positions of the child, the tampon is of service in preparing the parts for turning.

9. In eclampsia, premature delivery can be induced with great facility and speed; and the sectio cæsarea post mortem can be avoided, where, without the tampon, it would often be necessary.

10. In contracted pelvis, premature delivery can be induced in a similar manner as with the uterine douche, with the least possible danger to the mother and child.

This account is taken from the *Klinik der Geburtshülfe*, by Drs. Chiari, Braun, and Spaeth. This volume contains plates representing Braun's tampon and his uterine douche. I shall be happy to show them to any one interested in obstetrical matters, as they give a much better idea of the instrument than can be obtained from a verbal description.

* For the administration of the uterine douche, Dr. Braun uses a very convenient and portable apparatus, only eight inches high and four inches wide, constructed on the principles of the force pump, which throws a continuous stream of water, with great force. The price of this instrument, in Vienna, is only about \$5.

(Communicated for the Medical World.)

BELLADONNA IN SCARLATINA.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The fatal character of the prevailing *scarlatina epidemic*, in your city, seems to have revived the question of the *prophylactic* and *curative* properties of *belladonna*, in this dreaded scourge of childhood. The question has often been discussed by homœopaths and allopaths, the former *affirming*, and the latter, with some exceptions, *denying* that it possesses any such *preventive* power as has been attributed to it by Hahnemann and homœopaths. This conflict of opinion originates, we believe, in a misconception of the teachings of Hahnemann and homœopathy, and a consequent misapplication of the drug, on the part of our allopathic brethren, rather than in limited experiments, or infidelity of purpose. We think the *name* of the disease has been taken as the indication for the trial, instead of a *peculiar combination of symptoms*, upon which alone the prophylactic power is predicated.

A disputation, however lengthy and learned, cannot advance the settlement of the question the breadth of a single hair in the minds of those who have not a clear understanding of the conditions upon which it rests. The question, nevertheless, is a plain one, and may be easily settled by every member of the profession,—not by persistent debate,—not by ridicule and abuse,—not by theory and speculation, nor by indiscriminate and loose experimentation, but by experiments conducted according to specified conditions, easily comprehended, and not difficult of application.

It is generally known that Hahnemann, in the year 1801, eleven years after he discovered the homœopathic law of cure, announced to the medical profession of Germany, that *belladonna* possesses not only *curative*, but *prophylactic* properties in *scarlet-fever*. He accompanied this announcement by *specific conditions*, which he set forth as *indispensable* to the success of the drug. Hahnemann nowhere asserted that *belladonna* is, UNCONDITIONALLY, either *curative* or *preventive*; but he most unequivocally denied that he ever taught such a doctrine, or that such could be the case. The requisite conditions he indicated by stating explicitly, that an exact *similarity* MUST exist between the symptoms of the *prevailing epidemic*, and the symptoms that *belladonna* is capable of producing in the

healthy body. He also pointed out the symptoms characterizing a *scarlet-fever* epidemic in which *belladonna* would prove *curative* and *prophylactic*. If an exact *similarity* exists, he tells us that *belladonna*, given in the $\frac{1}{432,000}$ th part of a grain of the extract, every forty-eight to seventy-two hours, avoiding acids, wine and coffee, will protect all who are exposed to the *infection*. This was Hahnemann's experience, and it has been confirmed by hundreds, yea, we may say, thousands of physicians, who stand high, not only as accurate observers and diagnosticians, but also as proficient in other departments of medical science. Such, then, are the conditions to be scrupulously observed in conducting the experiments.

Every physician knows, who is capable of accurate observation, and has had much experience, that scarlet-fever epidemics, as well as others, exhibit a marked difference in their symptoms and course. The *scarlet-fever* epidemic of this year may prove unyielding to the remedies which controlled the *scarlet-fever* epidemic of last year, and for the reason that it differs essentially in its character. Let us illustrate by noting the symptoms of a single implicated tissue. In the one epidemic the *exanthema* appears at first on the upper part of the body, and gradually extends downwards; is erysipelatous, bright scarlet-red, glossy, and perfectly smooth to the feel; turns white under pressure, but instantly resumes the bright scarlet appearance when the pressure is removed; the parts occupied by the efflorescence are swollen, hot, and dry, whilst those parts not yet covered, are cool and moist; the *angina* is also scarlet, and its severity is generally in proportion to the extent of the eruption: while in the other epidemic, the *exanthema* does not appear with any regularity; is rash-like, imparting a roughness to the feel, occasioned by the slightly enlarged papilla, and miliary glands; presents a crimson or purplish-red appearance, and under pressure, instead of becoming white, the places are left dotted with dark points; the parts involved by the eruption are not swollen and hot, but moist, whilst those parts not yet occupied by the eruption, are dry; and the more limited the eruption, the greater the *angina*. Notwithstanding there is this marked difference in the skin symptoms, and this dissimilarity maintains throughout, to a greater or less extent, both are called *scarlatina*. Now as these epidemics differ in their symptomatic development, we infer that they differ essen-

tially ; and this inference becomes an established fact, in our own minds, when we have ascertained, by actual experiment, that the remedy which cures in the one case, exerts no beneficial influence in the other. On this ground, and in accordance with the conditions indicated by Hahnemann, competent homœopathic physicians employ, in one epidemic, remedies differing in their therapeutic qualities from those which they employed successfully, in some previous epidemic ; and on the same ground, and in accordance with the same conditions, we shall see them employing different remedies as *prophylactic*. Hence one epidemic may be controlled by *belladonna*, another by *arum triphyllum*, etc.

The reason why Hahnemann designated *belladonna*, instead of some other drug, as *preventive* in *scarlatina*, is this ; the *scarlet-fever*, as observed and described by Sydenham and Plencitz, which prevailed in a very malignant form in Germany at that time, exhibited symptoms strongly resembling those symptoms which Hahnemann had observed in children who had been poisoned by eating *belladonna berries*. According to his newly discovered principle of cure, Hahnemann inferred that *belladonna* ought to cure the disease. He gave it, and the rapidity and permanency of the cure exceeded his most sanguine expectations. The same unfailing results followed the employment of *belladonna* throughout the epidemic. On these results, satisfactory and brilliant as they were, a progressive and benevolent mind, like Hahnemann's, could not rest. A strong desire seized him to *preserve* those children, exposed to the infection, where removal was too late or impossible. In reasoning the subject, he concluded that a remedy capable of quickly checking the disease, in its onset, must prove its best *preventive*. He acted upon this conclusion, giving the *belladonna* as above stated, and the result was, all who took the drug passed unscathed by the pestilence, even where intercourse between the sick and the well was unrestrained.

In medicine the soundness of a theory can be proved more readily by submitting it to a practical test in epidemic, malignant diseases, than in the ordinary diseases of a general practice. Generally, acute diseases are so under the control of the vital powers, that it is often difficult to decide whether the favorable change is wrought by the drug administered, or by the recuperative energies of the organism, unaided by art. Epidemic *scarlatina*, *cholera*, *yellow fever*, and such violent and

malignant diseases afford the best and most satisfactory instances wherein the practical value of a medical theory may be tested ; and it is precisely here, and in instances no less doubtful, that the homœopathic school is desirous the test should be instituted, not only in reference to the efficiency of the homœopathic law of cure, and the *prophylactic* properties of drugs, but also in reference to the curative powers of medicines in infinitesimal quantities, when administered in accordance with the conditions demanded by the law of *similars*.

For the purpose of aiding those who are desirous of testing the principle, or deciding whether, in the present prevailing epidemic, *belladonna* ought to be regarded as *prophylactic* and *curative*, we present the more prominent features of an epidemic *scarlatina* in which *belladonna* will prove *curative* and *prophylactic* according to the conditions pointed out by Hahnemann.

The disease is generally ushered in with an exhibition of unusual timidity and fearfulness ; rigor with general coldness, especially in the face, the hands and the feet ; oppressive and shooting headache, especially in the forehead, above the orbits ; oppressive and shooting pains in the abdomen, increased by bending the body backwards ; shooting pains in the throat, with stiffness of the jaw ; horripilation over the hairy scalp, face and arms ; biting sensation, and itching on the body and hands ; unequal temperature of the body, some parts burning hot, while others are cool ; some parts moist, and others dry ; dimness of vision ; staring look, vacant stare ; eyelids inordinately wide open ; slimy tongue, sometimes, however, with red, elevated papillæ ; salivation ; cervicle, parotid, and submaxillary glands tender to the touch, hard and swollen ; little or no thirst ; pulse excessively quick, frequent and small ; breathing hurried and anxious ; sudden starts when dozing ; face at first pale and cold, afterwards hot and swollen ; smooth, glossy, scarlet redness of the skin, beginning on the upper part of the body, and gradually extending downwards, with no definite line of demarcation, but imperceptibly losing itself in the surrounding white skin, and disappearing on pressure, but instantly returning when the pressure is removed ; on the outburst of the scarlet appearance the fever does not diminish, but on the contrary, becomes more intense ; interior of the mouth, the tongue and palate, inflamed, raw, and painful ; swallowing very painful and difficult ; the complaining, grumbling disposition increases from day to

day. As the disease reaches a more extended development, or advances towards a fatal termination, other symptoms, of course, are exhibited, such as, paroxysms of agonizing tossing about, raving, groaning, grinding of the teeth, picking at flocks, general or partial convulsions, and comatose stupefaction or sopor, with half shut eyes, and head bent backwards, involuntary passing of urine and fæces.

It is not to be understood that the above enumerated symptoms constitute a finished portraiture of a *belladonna epidemic scarlatina*. In a long-continued, and more fully developed epidemic, by which the implicated tissues and organs are usually multiplied, other symptoms, of course, are developed; but the general aspect of the malady is not changed by the newly evolved and aggravated symptoms. These are sufficiently comprehensive and characteristic to serve as an unfailing guide in making out the diagnosis, and settling the question as to whether *belladonna* is the *prophylactic* and *curative*, or some other drug.

The question, then, to be decided by those in doubt is, *not* whether *belladonna* is *preventive* in all forms of *scarlatina*, for this never has been claimed; but whether it is *preventive* in that peculiar form described by Sydenham and Plencitz, the leading features of which we have presented above, and which strongly assimilate the symptoms known to homœopaths to be produced in the healthy body by *belladonna*.

We, as homœopaths, submit the question on this ground, not only in reference to *scarlatina*, but also in reference to all other epidemic and malignant diseases, where allopathic practice proves unsatisfactory even to its most zealous supporters. We state the conditions, and offer the means by which the experiments are to be made. Nor do we ask a reconsideration of the foregone conclusions, that the *homœopathic materia medica* is fictitious. We offer it, with all its imperfections, as the only instrument by which the work is to be performed, requiring only that the experiments shall be conducted in good faith, and strictly in accordance with the conditions demanded by the homœopathic doctrine.

WM. E. PAYNE, M. D.

Bath, Me., Feb. 20, 1857.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER XI.—BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

Ablutions and Bathing—When Beneficial—When Injurious
—The Perspiratory System—Warm Bath—Water, the best Drink.

HYGIENIC USES OF WATER.

These may be carried to excess, but, generally, they are far too much neglected. The cold sponging, or affusion, should be frequently used. It is very healthful. A shower-bath, or a thorough wetting from head to foot, and brisk rubbing with a flesh brush, coarse napkin, or the hand, are of much service. They greatly strengthen the fibres, and tend to keep the whole machine in active play. The cold bath, however, cannot be borne in very feeble constitutions. A good rule by which to ascertain whether it is beneficial or prejudicial is, the effect which follows it. If there is a glow and grateful warmth, it does good. But if it is succeeded by cold chills, or shiverings, it is injurious, and should be abandoned. Sometimes, also, in very feeble habits, where the circulation is low, there will be a glow for a short time, and then there is a falling back into a chilly and feeble state, which continues through the day. In such habits it does harm. The Earl of Panmure, England, was accustomed to wrap himself, every morning, previous to dressing, rising naked from his bed, in a sheet just dipped in cold water. He died in his 82d year. I have known some persons greatly benefited by a very slight touch with a sponge, moistened with water and followed by brisk, dry friction. Friction is good in all cases. It acts favorably upon the muscles and sinews, and promotes the circulation. It is one of the best means that can be used to preserve the health, and for removing incipient diseases. Admiral Henry constructed what he called "*The Pummelling Hammer*," and curious instruments for every part of the body, made of bones, by which he cured himself of rheumatism and several other diseases, and preserved his health to a very advanced age, a full account of which may be found in "Sir John Sinclair's Code of Health." In the commencement of dyspepsia, and in disease or torpidity of the liver, I have known friction over the region of the

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

stomach, between the chest and bowels, and over the liver, of signal service.

No person can long enjoy health who neglects the *Perspiratory System*. The outlets, or natural evacuations of the body are as necessary and require as much and as prompt attention, as the air and food we breathe and eat. At least three-fifths of the surplus matter from the body is carried off through the pores of the skin. This is called *sensible and insensible perspiration*. When we are exercising or very warm, the perspiration appears in drops, or is clearly perceptible upon the surface of the body. This, in people who labor or exercise much, is very beneficial. But far more of the pernicious matter of the body is carried off by the *insensible perspiration*, which is constantly going on, both day and night. For this reason, the linen, or under garments, should be often changed, and no person should sleep in the same garment which he wears in the day time. One great secret of preserving health consists in keeping the skin in a healthy state. Warm baths, or frequent ablutions, or vapor baths, are of excellent use in accomplishing this object. There is nothing which will render the skin so soft and pliant, or make one feel so much like being "swept and garnished," as the vapor bath when properly administered. Any person can have this healthful luxury and great convenience in his own house for a small sum. I assure him he will find it extremely useful, not only as a means of *preserving* health, but also in curing disease. Any one can see the great utility of attention to the skin, as such a vast drain as that from the perspiratory glands cannot be stopped without producing immense mischief. The warm bath is safer and often more beneficial than the cold. As the first instance of cold bathing on record, as a *remedy*, was that of Melampus bathing the daughter of the King of Argos, so "Medea's Cauldron" is supposed to have been the first record of the *warm bath*. The derivation of the word "care-destroyer," and the fabulous stories of old persons being restored to youth, or perfectly rejuvenated by the use of "Medea's Boiler," indicate that the warm was anciently held in equal estimation with the cold bath. The general use of the warm bath in our country would, no doubt, produce most salutary effects upon health and longevity. The time will come when its use will be much more frequent.

It has been objected that the *warm bath* renders persons *effeminate and debilitated*; but this is a mistake. On the contrary, where

warm-bathing is frequently used, the people are healthy and live to advanced age. The warm bath, like every other good measure, may be abused, and so carried to excess, when joined with luxury and extravagance, as to be injurious. It was so among the ancient Romans, who are said to have bathed six, seven, and eight times a day. It was also when they had become luxurious in everything; when vice so abounded that even the warm bath could not save them. Like Sampson, shorn of his locks, making sport for the Philistines; or Music, the daughter of Heaven, who, when exiled from her legitimate sphere, has been compelled to serve in the synagogues of Satan, so the warm bath may be prostituted to the purposes of effeminacy and sensuality. But, in its proper use, it has no such tendency. It revives rather than exhausts. Thus Homer makes Ulysses refresh himself with the warm bath upon returning from his toils and battles. Bruce, travelling in the intense heat of Abyssinia, received more refreshment and vigor from a warm than a cold bath. Those who excelled in the Grecian games recruited their exhausted strength and elevated their depressed spirits by the use of the warm bath. For this reason they consecrated the warm bath to Hercules, the god of strength. In a word, the warm bath recruits exhausted strength, wards off contagious diseases, relieves bodily pain and assuages mental distress. All this can be proved both from the Ancients and Moderns.

Whitfield said "there never was a lazy Christian, and we may add, there never was a *dirty* Christian. Whatever they might have been before, when they have become Christians, it can be said of them, as the great Apostle said to the Corinthian converts, "ye are *washed*." Filth is incompatible with Christianity, which, from beginning to end, is a cleansing process, both of the outer and inner man. "Know ye not that your *bodies* are the temples of the Holy Ghost, and will the Holy Spirit dwell in a polluted body?" It is not only "with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, and hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience," that we are "to draw near to God," but also "having our *bodies washed with pure water*." The Church which Christ loves, and which is presented to Himself glorious, without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, "is *cleansed* with the washing of water by the word." A filthy, dirty Christian cannot be. A clergyman should be a pattern of neatness. He cannot have health without cleanliness. A physician of this city ascribes the sore eyes, and

frequent loss of vision, which he met with in his travels in the East, to want of cleanliness. To neglect our health, is sin against God. To be unclean in body, indicates an impure heart.

No indulgence in filth nor libations to Bacchus can so calm the distressed mind as cleanliness. The Poet Thomson had this in view when he said—

“Even from the body's purity the mind
Receives a secret sympathetic aid.”

It is doubtful whether Christianized nations use water for purposes of cleanliness as much as do uncivilized and unchristianized. Lord Kames, in his “Sketches of Man,” said, many years since, “In the Island of Otaheite, both sexes bathe freely, and never eat without washing before and after. The Negroes, in general, on the Slave Coast of Africa, wash themselves, morning and evening.” When our missionaries first visited the South Sea Islands, amid all their degradation, they found the heathen washed twice and thrice a day. No nation ever made a more free use of water both for ablutions and cold and warm baths than the ancient Greeks, and they were long-lived. Arcadia and Etolia, indeed all Greece, were celebrated for longevity. Pythagoras, Pindar, Sophocles, Anacreon, Plato, and Zeno all lived to advanced age. Italy was also famous for its baths, and in the 76th year of the Christian Era, when a census of the people was made, there were 265 persons over one hundred years of age in that part of Italy which lies between the Po and the Apennines. An unclean plant is disgusting, an unclean bird is still more loathsome; but there is nothing more disgusting and loathsome than an unclean man, except an *unclean spirit*.

Water is an invaluable remedy in many diseases; but it is not of its curative, but its hygienic properties we are now to speak. Cold water is one of the best tonics we have. It gives vigorous action to the stomach and the whole alimentary canal. It should not be taken *with* food, nor immediately *after* eating, as a certain degree of heat is necessary to the proper digestion of food. If a gill of ice-water is thrown into the stomach when recently filled with food, at its common temperature of one hundred degrees of Fahrenheit, it is cooled down to 70°, and digestion stops till the temperature rises again to 100°. Hence the impropriety of drinking cold or iced water with our meals. But water taken when the stomach is empty or nearly so, has a highly invigorating and beneficial effect.

Water-drinkers ordinarily outlive spirit-drinkers. We have a remarkable verification of this statement from an old physician of Natchez. After having enumerated the deaths of most of the physicians of that city, who lived there thirty years ago, who were spirit-drinkers, and given the names of those who were not, and who are still living, he says, “as it was with the doctors of Natchez and vicinity, so has it been with the lawyers. The lawyers of that city and vicinity, thirty years ago, who were in the habit of using alcoholic beverages, in the place of plain water, between meals, are all dead long ago. There is not one left. Even to bring down the time to twenty years, there is not one left. While of the temperate lawyers of the same locality, from twenty to thirty years ago, all are living at the present time, June, 1853, minus a number *less* than the natural decrease of mankind, incident to the most healthy countries, as set forth in the Carlisle tables of mortality. The Bench and the Pulpit have scarcely lost a member, except from accident or old age. The temperate lawyers, with the exceptions just mentioned, are not only all living, but they are all rich, although they began life poor. The contrast arrived at, by consulting time and experience, is so great, that it may be said death is in alcohol and life is in water, when used as a common beverage. That plain, good, pure water is better than alcohol in any form, to enable the human system to endure fatigue and exposure, and to give both body and mind, strength and vigor, the history of the above mentioned classes plainly proves.”

He gives the names of many of those temperate men, and the posts of honor which they have or do now fill. Among them are Major General John A. Quitman, a model of a temperate man in all things except politics; Hon. Robert J. Walker, late Secretary of the Treasury, and present minister to China; Capt. John B. Nevitt, a master spirit at political meetings, yet he never drank half a pint of ardent spirit in all his life.

Verily, by these statements we are reminded of a remark of an old clergyman, in our boyish days, respecting a man by the name of Drink-water. He had turned exhorter among the Smithites, and one night advised the audience all to flee into *Lot's* ark. Some one asked our old congregational clergyman, after his exhortation, what he thought of him. He said, he thought he had better keep *drinking water*.

The *feet* require attention, if any one would preserve health. No person who neglects his

feet, can long be in the enjoyment of comfort, cleanliness, or health. It is very uncomfortable to any one to have dirty feet; more uncomely to smell them, and most destructive to health to possess them. Every person should wash his feet daily, and then rub them thoroughly with a fine napkin, and then a coarse one, and then, if they are moist and cold, they should be rubbed daily with warm dry sand and washed again and thoroughly dried. The stockings should be changed every day. I have known persons afflicted with bronchial disease and a little hacking cough for years, when the whole trouble arose from damp, cold feet which were seldom washed or cleansed; and I have seen the same persons enjoying comfortable health from simply attending in a proper manner to their feet. But we have spoken of the feet in another place.

Remember the good old proverb, "Keep the head cool, the feet warm, and throw physic to the dogs," so long as you are well, and I add, you will not be likely to be sick.

FLOATING FACTS.

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.—At the last annual meeting, Mr. Henchment, the president, resigned. The new officers are as follows: Thomas Hollis, President; Samuel M. Colcord, George W. Parmenter, Vice Presidents; T. Larkin Turner, Corresponding Secretary; Asahel Boyden, Treasurer; James S. Melvin, Auditor; Daniel Henchman, H. D. Fowle, A. S. Melvin, Charles T. Carney, John Buck, Robert R. Kent, Charles H. Atwood, Abraham S. Wiley, Trustees.

This well-officered institution should do something more than hold annual elections. Why not commence a course of lectures under the auspices of the members. It is really an intangible corporation, having a legal existence on paper. There is intelligence and genuine weight of character enough within its fraternal grasp, to conduct a college of pharmacy on a brilliant career of usefulness, alike creditable to themselves, and honorable to the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Collodium.—1. The Codex Medicam. Hamb. prescribes:

- 20 parts of dry Nitre,
- 30 parts of English Sulphuric Acid,
- 2 parts of Cotton,

which has been previously treated with soda—to be left in contact with the acids only a few minutes.

Anomalous Contents of a Cow's Stomach.

—A butcher at Jamestown took out of the stomach of a slaughtered beef a *flat stone*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in size, and a *jack-knife* of medium proportions, with complete handle and full blade. Both articles look as though they might have been in this singular depository some time, and had not been entirely unaffected in the gastric juice. Balls of hair from two to three inches in diameter, are often found in the same organ.

Self-Polution.—Dr. Cornell, a coroner of Boston, a well-known writer in this journal, recently held an inquest on the body of Josephine A. Gray, a girl of 12 years of age, who was found dead. The jury's verdict reads thus,—viz.:

"That Josephine A. Gray came to her death at No. 22 Oneida street, on the 6th of March, 1857, at about 4 o'clock, A. M., while restrained from self-abuse, from some cause to the jury unknown; and the jury further say that they believe that the father of the child and Mrs. Philenia Upham, with whom she resided, though sincere in their motives, were injudicious in their treatment of her."

At the inquest a physician testified that he had advised those who had charge of the girl to confine her hands to prevent an evil habit, but this had been followed to a greater extent than he intended.

This vice is vastly more common than suspected. Physicians could relate sad cases of depravity, were they disposed. A more marvellous example than this was mentioned a while since in a journal of medicine, of a little girl only five years old, whose obstinate ingenuity in violating all moral and physical attempts to restrain her, might be cited as without a parallel in the records of physiology.

Alizarine Ink.—Hr. Leonhardi has obtained a patent in Hanover for this ink. It is prepared by digesting 24 parts of Aleppo galls and 3 parts of Dutch madder with 120 parts of warm water. The liquid is filtered and mixed with 1.2 parts solution of indigo, 5.2 sulphate of iron, and 2 parts crude acetate of iron solution. The advantages of this ink are, that—

1. It does not contain gum.
2. The tannate of iron is prevented from separating by the sulphate of indigo.
3. Mouldiness is prevented by this addition, and by the acetate of iron.

Old, yet Young.—There is now living in Coventry, Conn., James Douglass, who is *one hundred and two years and seven months old*. Notwithstanding his great age he is as hearty, strong and robust as most men at fifty; his eye-sight is good, never having been necessitated to wear glasses; and his faculties in general seem unimpaired. During the past winter he walked two miles from home in the morning, cut his cord of wood per day, and returned home in the evening. His present health is good and he labors daily. He has always eaten whatever was set before him; drank tea and coffee ever since he could remember; drank spirits, wine and cider whenever he wanted them, but never to excess. He has used tobacco over forty years. He was born in North Kingston, Rhode Island.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

One hundred and twenty medical students took the degree of M. D. at the University in New York, last week.

Nathan Allen, M. D., of Lowell, Mass., recently elected a trustee of Amherst College, is an able, sound-minded man, whose election is a happy circumstance for the College.

Those Medical Journals which stickle for having physicians made coroners, and who strengthen their arguments in favor of their favorite opinions by citing the blunders of the New York coroner in the Burdell murder,—and we are of the number,—are solemnly informed that Mr. Coroner Connery is a genuine, regularly educated medical man, who had M. D. conferred upon him by the University of New York. We are mortified at the discovery.

The annual course of lectures before the Worcester Medical College, commenced Thursday afternoon, at Chapman Hall. The introductory lecture was delivered by Prof. Burnham, on the subject—"American Surgeons, and the Progress of Surgery in America."

A child swallowed a needle at Waterville, Conn., New Year's evening, which has since come out at the knee.

The Eclectic Medical Journal, at Cincinnati, has commenced its fifth series, and is beautifully printed.

Most of the Journals for March are rich in materials for thought. They copy extensively from each other, which is very proper. A good suggestion or a valuable fact should circulate freely.

Scarlet fever is raging in the northern section of Mississippi.

There were four hundred and fifty-four matriculated students at the university of Pennsylvania in attendance on the medical lectures, when last heard from.

The Sandwich Islanders give extraordinary evidence of their advancing civilization, by the organization of a Medical Society, of which Dr. R. R. Wood is president which sounds very much like a thorough English name.

Miss Hollingsworth, of Knox county, Ind., went to the woods to cut some bark, when she stumbled and fell on the edge of an axe, cutting a horrid gash in her abdomen. She managed to bind up her wound with her apron, but in attempting to climb a fence on her way home she fell exhausted, was found almost lifeless, and died during the day.

This is what is officially said of Paris: That one in every three thousand persons commits suicide; that two-thirds of the population cannot afford the expense of burial; that in every three births one is illegitimate; that 30,000 persons, besides those assisted by regular charities, rise every morning without knowing how they will get a dinner.

At the meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New York, held at Albany on the 5th of February, 1857, a report was adopted, offering a prize of fifty dollars for the best essay on "Scarlet Fever."

The last woman reported to have died at the age of 116, is presumed to have been the oldest female in America at the time of her death.

Public health still remains good, with a few exceptions, throughout the States and Territories.

A Dr. Paige has been lecturing in Boston, on the existence of spirits. The local habitation of ardent spirits in the city, in great abundance, requires no further demonstration.

A Dr. Bradford fought a duel with somebody, at Washington, on Saturday, March 8th. He was not so unfortunate with a bullet, as he might have been with a pill. His antagonist was not injured.

Another infallible remedy for all diseases, if advertisements are true, is to be found in a new department of medical science, expressed by a new-coined term—*clairiosympathy*. It is really wonderful! Any one who can pronounce it without violating the laws of language, will have no occasion for medical advice. The depot for applicants at this new

pool of Siloam, is in Hayward place, near the centre of Boston. People love to be imposed upon. "All the doctors said there was no hope for me — said I must soon die, and the only wonder was that I lived so long in such a situation. My pulse ran from 130 to 150 a minute. In this condition I commenced taking your medicine (after an examination by which was shown a knowledge of the case), though without expecting to ever be restored to health. But to my surprise, and that of all who knew my case, I was restored to perfect health in six weeks, and in that time gained thirty pounds, and *from that time* have been enjoying perfect health." This shows that the fools are not all dead.

At Havana, in three vessels recently arrived, with 1103 Chinese laborers, on the voyage from Amoa, 311 died, of which 200 were on board the Peruvian bark Cora. This terrible mortality shows that the laws of health on shipboard were grossly violated.

An effort is being made to have the salary of the Clerk of Police, Dr. H. G. Barrows, increased. It is a post of great labor, and the pay is inadequate. He is an excellent officer, always at his post, — prompt, accurate, and a man of fine talents. His services are worth more to the city of Boston than the combined labors of half a dozen imperfectly qualified aspirants, who would take his place, if possible, at half the present salary. The laborer is worthy of his hire.

We notice that medical gentlemen are speaking favorably of the various new medicinal preparations put up by Messrs. Tilden & Co., druggists, at New Lebanon, N. Y. A few specimens sent here for examination, would be seed sown in good soil.

Somebody has said in a lecture what may possibly be true, viz., that the excessive use of saleratus is a cardinal cause of the American ill health. It is a deadly poison, the use of which should be shunned as the slaughterer of the infant and the destroyer of the strong man.

A horse distemper extensively prevailed in Portland the past winter, and has not yet entirely abated. About seventy-five are sick of something akin to lung fever, and twenty have died of it.

A recipe is going the rounds, purporting to have emanated from Dr. Wm. Fields, of Wilmington, Delaware — a dose of yeast and a milk diet for small-pox. If he had said avoid both, it would have been better. Doctors disagree.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, MARCH 18, 1857.

LIVING PHYSICIANS AND DEAD LIONS. — This is a hackneyed saying, but it is nevertheless a pertinent one. By reading a synopsis of the transactions of the Academy of Medicine, in New York, there seems to have been some hesitancy in regard to raising a committee for preparing resolutions touching the death of Dr. Kane, of Arctic memory. Had some one asked who Dr. Kane was, or stated in his place that he had never before heard of the deceased, the picture would have been more striking to the spectator.

At a late meeting of the Academy, Dr. Batchelder was called to the Chair, and subsequently Dr. Beadle, a vice president, presided. In consequence of the tardy coming of members, a vain attempt at adjournment was made, and the society proceeded to its regular business — election of new members, the reports of the scientific sections, &c. Dr. McNulty raised the question of the propriety of the academy's passing appropriate resolutions for the memory of Dr. Kane. On motion of Dr. Gardner, a committee of three was appointed by the Chair to draft appropriate resolutions. The Chair appointed Drs. Gardner, J. M. Smith and Alonzo Clark. The first two on this committee, having no personal knowledge of the deceased, begged to resign, which resignation was accepted, and Drs. Willard Parker and Griscom substituted, who, resigning for the same reason, Dr. Watson moved that the motion of the academy appointing such a committee be reconsidered; that Dr. Kane was not celebrated as a medical man, that he was not a member of the academy, and that he was not even a citizen of New York. He thought that the academy was making itself officious in passing resolutions. Dr. McNulty, at some length, entered into a recapitulation of Dr. Kane's professional character; he had been a class-mate with him and had known his worth. The Doctor gave a long and quite minute *résumé* of the professional pursuits of Dr. K., his microscopical researches and his elaborate papers, which had gained him reputation in scientific circles. Dr. Gardner said that he had resigned from this Committee, because he thought others were better able, by various qualifications, to discharge its duties than he, but he trusted that the action of the Academy would not be reconsidered. Doctors were proverbial for their unwillingness to speak well of their brethren when living, but he hoped that they could, in such an extreme case as this, afford to tell the truth and speak well of one when dead, and that the Academy would always be "officious" in recognizing greatness and praising worth. The vote was not reconsidered, and the committee was appointed as follows: Drs. J. W. Francis, Clark and McNulty.

SURGICAL REPORTS.—It is pleasant to sit down quietly over the writings of those retiring lights of the profession, whose influence has been extensively exercised in forming the genuine medical and surgical standard of character in this country.

Not long since we had occasion to speak of the medical essays and papers by Dr. Bigelow,—a man of profound attainments in general science; and to-day we are reminded of the labors of a gentleman, who for thirty years was pursuing a professional course in Boston, side by side with a remaining few—the connecting links between the past and the present. We allude to George Hayward, M. D., a surgeon in the highest sense. Of course it is not our intention to write his biography nor particularize the sciences in which he has been engaged from early life.

A volume by Dr. Hayward in 1855, called *Surgical Reports and Miscellaneous Papers on Medical Subjects*, is much more of a book than might at first be suspected, from the modesty of its title-page. But the more thoroughly the interior is examined, the medical reader is impressed with the cautious, prudent teachings of a successful teacher, who felt responsible to society for every sentence he recorded. It is that characteristic carefulness that excites our admiration. The new school of harum-scarum, dashing, daring, cut-and-thrust surgeons was not fashionable when Dr. Hayward was in the meridian of practice. And when men of the class of conservatives to which he belongs wrote anything, it would stand the test of ages. Their recorded facts were really and truly what they were represented to be—rules of practice. They had no time for constructing air-castle theories. This particular volume is a striking evidence of this position.

Whether it is considered essential for students to look into the written experiences of those living authors whom they are frequently passing on the sidewalks, is more than we pretend to know. It is quite certain, however, that a familiar acquaintance with Dr. Hayward's *Surgical Reports* would do much towards impressing the young surgeon with his responsibilities and duties, and make him more considerate and painstaking in his profession, than any ordinary course of reading at command.

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL LITERATURE.—A slower coach than the legitimate medical press of the country, has not been on the track for some years, than is now slowly rumbling along the highway of science. No remarkable works are under way. Foreign books, republished and occasionally spotted on the margins with native notes, which are diluted thoughts at best, are occasionally coming into view, the out-croppings of genius, like seams of coal,—indicating the direction of the veins.

Look at the poverty of brain in medical literature, as exhibited in the American Publisher's Circular for the 28th of February.

In press,—Cancer,—its treatment by novel and improved measures, by James Arnott, M. D. *English.*

Tables for the Chemical and Microscopical Examination of the Urine, in health and disease, by Lionel Beale. *English.*

The Constitution of Women, as illustrated in abdominal cellulitis or inflammation of the cellular membrane of the abdomen and pelvis, by Charles Bell. *English.*

Adulterations Detected, or plain instructions for the discovery of frauds in food and medicine, by Arthur H. Hassall. *English.*

Diseases of London Residents, &c. *English.*

The Digital System of teaching the Multiplication Table, by Joseph Kenny, M. D. *English.*

The Year Book of Facts, by David A. Wells, which is extremely valuable, but not a medical publication, is the only scientific book for the past month. That is an American production. And yet the people boast of a domain that stretches from the Atlantic on the East, to the Pacific Ocean on the West.

Why is the medical intellect of the United States in a state of repose?

AT HOME—An absence of two weeks necessarily interferes with the arrangement of materials which go into these columns. The accumulation in that short period, of papers, books, pamphlets and letters, is a curiosity. It is no ordinary undertaking to commence a systematic examination of the literary tumulus. Typographical blunders, and the insertion of articles by mistake, are mortifying discoveries sometimes made, on returning to the position of labor. However, in the mass of papers pouring in, there are some excellent things, to counterbalance such as may have inadvertently moved the beam the wrong way, while the compositors assumed the responsibility.

MIND AND MATTER.—It is our purpose, at a convenient time, to give such attention to Sir Benjamin Brodie's new work, as the dignity of the subject demands. It is no difficult achievement to construct a book in these dishonest days of literary larceny, when the whole art of writing something for making a sensation in medical science, mainly consists in appropriating the thoughts and brilliant sayings of others, so adroitly, as not to be recognized, and passing them off in a fast age, when few ever attempt the drudgery of thinking, as the author's own. Messrs. Putnam & Co. have our thanks for a seasonable copy.

MARRIAGES.

At Carrick-on-Suir, Ireland, T. EDMUNDSON, M.D.,
t Miss M. FLOYD.

DEATHS.

In Baltimore, Dr. HORATIO CLAGGETT, of Frederick county.

In New York, Dr. SAMUEL B. PHILLIPS, by suicide; he took Prussic acid. He had been for some days in a desponding mood, and extremely fretful, his excitement partaking of a religious nature. On the day of death, in the afternoon, he saying he was fatigued retired to his bed-room, first sending his wife on an errand. When Mrs. Phillips returned she found the bed-room locked, and supposing him asleep, did not enter.

Some time afterwards Mrs. Phillips entered, when she beheld her husband lying on the bed, cold and dead. A glass partly filled with water was on a table by the Doctor's bedside. This tumbler, on being examined, was found to contain some Prussic acid, and a medical examination afterwards made showed that Dr. Phillips had destroyed himself by swallowing a quantity of this most deadly poison. The appearance of the body indicated that he died with scarcely a struggle.

Dr. Roe testified before Coroner Perry, that Dr. Phillips had been suffering from an enlargement of the liver, and that such disease was calculated to induce despondency and uneasiness of mind.

Upon the person of the deceased was found a paper, on which was written these words:

"I here declare that *my dear Harriet* has not been the cause of my misfortunes. It is myself, and I am tired of my own sinful nature, and of a sinful, cheating world. May God forgive me! I am yours, now, as ever.
S. B. P."

The verdict of the Coroner's Jury,—"Suicide by Hydrocyanic acid."

Dr. Phillips was 54 years of age, a native of Connecticut.

At Philadelphia, Dr. JOHN W. RICHMOND, of Providence, R. I. His remains were brought to Stonington, and deposited in a tomb on Saturday. Dr. Richmond was eminent in his profession, and business-like in all his undertakings. He has long been at war with the State of Rhode Island, on account of her repudiation of her Revolutionary debt, and carried his antipathy so far that he purchased a burial lot in Stonington, Conn., and donated \$500 to the town to keep it in repair, that his remains might rest in soil uncontaminated by forgetfulness of the services of the men of the Revolution.

At West Point, Prof. JACOB W. BAILEY, Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology in the West Point Military Academy, and President of the American Association for the advancement of Science.

At Milton, Mass., Mrs. ABIGAIL ADAMS, widow of the late Dr. Samuel Adams, of Bath, Maine.

In Paris, Mme. de TUSSEIU, at the advanced age of ninety years. She was the widow of Antoine Laurent de Tussieu, the author of the *Methode Naturelle*, which all botanists now use, and whose philosophical principles Cuvier applied to the classification of the animal kingdom. The government, as a special mark of favor, allowed her to occupy until death the house which was the residence of her husband and her son, both having been professors in the Garden of Plants. By her death the name of de Tussieu disappears from the Garden of Plants, the home of five botanists, all of whom were members of the Academy of Science, and the name de Tussieu is now extinct.

DR. SAMUEL CHAMPNEY died in New York on Monday, from poison received in consequence of an accidental cut in his forefinger at a *post mortem* examination.

At Fairhaven, Mass., MISS MYRA M. daughter of Dr. JAMES C. MARA.

DEATHS REPORTED AT THE CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 7.

Thomas Farrell 1 day, Ellen Brown 1 do., Catharine Hennessy 3 do., George Ayres jr. 3 do., Wm. Bigley 3 do., Willis Kinmonth 6 mos., Honora Gahagan 19 do., Elizabeth Prendergast 6 do., John Noyes 2 do., Charles McDevitt 6 do., Patrick Fay 12 do., John Field 3 do., Emma J. Fenno 2 yrs., Warren H. Lawrence 12 do., Edward Curley 2 do., John Hyde 8 do., Ellen McCarty 40 do., James A. McKay 18 do., John Swift 45 do., Sarah A. Stevens, 32 do., Michael Connell 80 do., Charles A. Drake 4 do., John Crawford 72 do., Thomas C. Simonds 24 do., Lemuel L. Palmer 29 do., John Perry 39 do., Rebecca Denton 69 do., James C. Rogers 46 do., Charles E. Goddard 31 do., Maria N. Prescott 4 do., Milton T. Morse 29 do., Hannah E. Fouche 14 mos., Isabella McFarland 27 yrs., Mary Ann Dukelow 36 do., Dennis O'Connor 59 do., Frederick Cusick 3 do., Catharine Doherty 3 do., Charles McNulty 8 mos., Jeremiah Coffee 8 do., George W. Silvers 18 do., Walter C. Chandler 2 yrs., Bela Blodgett 61 do., Sophia S. Atwood 3 do., Lefy R. Brooks 34 do., Albert Kelly 2 do., Mary McCarty 60 do., Mary Bigley 25 do., Margaret Thomas 24 do., Nicholas Little 64 do., Mrs. John Stewart 82 do., Julia Metcalf 70 do., Patrick Crockley 4 do., Ann Hay 30 do., Hugh McGonagle 14 do., Amanda R. Simmons 29 do., George W. Poole 6 do., Herman Bodenschatz 8 mos., Mary C. Murphy 14 do., Catharine M. Lynch 3 days, Karl Bodenschatz 6 mos., Mary A. Sullivan 19 mos., Elizabeth Billings 71 yrs., Frederick W. Page 3 do., Elizabeth Springsteen 69 do., Sarah Burke 65 do., Josephine A. Gray 11 do., Mary Taylor 70 do., Agnes Jesser 5 do., Catherine O'Leary 8 mos., Mary Phillips 66 yrs.

DISEASES. — Consumption 10, convulsions 4, croup 2, debility 2, dropsy 4, dropsy in head 3, infantile diseases 5, puerperal do. 2, scarlet fever 10, diseases of heart 5, inflammation of lungs 6, old age 2; other diseases, 1 each, 15. Total 70. Males 38, females 32. 55 were born in United States, 11 in Ireland, 2 in England, and 2 in other foreign places.

N. A. APOLLONIO, City Registrar.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

VOLUME I.

MARCH 25, 1857.

NUMBER 26.

THE VICTORIA MILITARY HOSPITAL.

The following description of a new institution for the relief of sick and afflicted soldiers, who have served in English armies, is beyond question the most complete in its details, of any hospital in the world. R. S. Raunie, Esq., a celebrated British architect, is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the grand design. We have copied the article with a hope that it may lead to improvements and advances in economy and comfort in the new hospitals that may from one period to another be reared in this country.

The Victoria Military Hospital, the designs for which were submitted to Lord Panmure in May last, is situated at Netley, on the Southampton water. It is intended to provide accommodation of the most approved kind for one thousand patients. The first point discussed was, whether it would be more desirable to provide for the thousand inmates in one or several buildings, and it was determined that two structures would be better than one. At the same time, a central edifice was resolved upon, to connect the two divisions of the hospital, so that the whole pile presents an irregular and spacious front of highly architectural appearance. To the right is the hospital for surgical cases, to the left that for medical. In the centre are the rooms required for the first reception and examination of the patients, apartments for medical officers, clerks, record keepers, store rooms, and offices connected with the apothecary's, purveyors', and commissioners' departments. In this portion of the building, moreover, accommodation will be provided for a specified number of sick officers, as it may be anticipated that, in numerous instances, during a war, or even during peace, officers may come home so disabled by the effects of wounds,

or by the influence of unhealthy climates, that for a certain time they will require the most careful treatment from professional men of the largest experience.

Adjoining the rooms devoted to the first reception and examination of the patients, is the principal bathing-room of the establishment, amply furnished with baths of every kind. It being considered, also, of the utmost importance to the well-being, both of the sick inmates and of the medical and other attendance, that there should exist the most direct covered line of communication between every part of the entire hospital, one great corridor on the ground floor and every floor above is so planned as to run from end to end of the whole pile, the central building projecting on one side of this corridor towards Southampton water, while the wings retire inland on the other side. Experience has shown that the old system of admitting crowds of patients into common wards is not only pernicious, but demoralizing. The wards have been so constructed as to vary in size, accommodating from two to sixteen persons, giving to each individual a cubical space of from thirteen to eighteen thousand cubic feet. In these wards, in addition to the ordinary means of ventilation afforded by chimneys, doors, and windows, ventilating tubes are to be arranged in such a manner as to carry off the heated or vitiated air, whether accumulated near the roof or the floor, while others will pour into the centre a continual stream from the untainted atmosphere without. It is ordered that the beds should in no case be placed under the windows, that there shall be a space of at least four clear feet between the sides of the different beds, and that where two rows are placed in one ward, that there shall be at least ten feet between them.

The supply of light, as conducive to health and cheerfulness, being also a point of no little importance, the windows are extremely numerous, large, and so distributed as to catch the

broadest glimpses of the sun, so delightful to the sick, when wearied by long seclusion. With a view, however, to prevent any excessive glare, galleries corresponding to the great central corridor run between all the walls and the external walls of the building, while outside blinds, along the other facades, will shelter the windows from sun, rain, and the penetrating power of eastern and northern winds. To every ward is attached a nurses' and orderlies' room, a bath and ablution room, and every other convenience necessary to the health and comfort of the patients.

The whole of the cooking and other preliminary arrangements connected with the hospital are to be carried on in kitchens and offices apart from, though contiguous to the main building. Above these kitchens and offices are extensive dining rooms, in which those patients who are not confined to their beds will assemble to dine. They will not have to pass, however, through the open air, covered galleries being constructed leading to the great corridor on every floor. The communication between the kitchen and dining-rooms will be by means of lifts and staircases, lifts being also provided for the raising of heavy weights in other parts of the establishment; and, with the object of economizing labor, a small steam engine is to be placed at each end of the hospital, to work the lifts, both for conveying dinners and stores from the ground floor upwards. Patients, too, who are so ill that they cannot be removed in the ordinary manner without inconvenience to themselves, will be raised to the ward intended for their reception by means of the comfortable and perfectly easy motion of a lift. To complete these healthful arrangements, there is behind each wing of the hospital a spacious yard, surrounded by low buildings, which will afford accommodation for patients afflicted with contagious complaints, as also rooms for the men's pack, for coals, wood, and other materials. Here also are placed the warehouses and ashpits, with dead houses and post mortem examination rooms; a covered verandah, running round the yard, secures pleasant and safe means of communication.

We may now describe, more particularly, the several parts of the building. The central block has a grand portico entrance into a broad corridor, opening to the right and left, into offices, closets, a waiting room for two hundred men, fitted with benches, the chapel of the establishment, a large and handsome chamber, furnished so as to be ready for any State visit, and a variety of other commodious

apartments for servants, porters, &c. This is the case on every floor of the building. Crossing the great corridor in the rear is a swimming bath fifty-seven feet long, thirty feet wide, and from four to seven feet deep, six hot baths of the ordinary size, with shower baths fitted over them, a sulphur and vapor bath, and a mineral acid bath suggested by the apparatus at the celebrated hospital of Rotterdam. The surgical block, on one side, for five hundred patients, has also its portico, corridor, and offices of various kinds, beside the double line of wards. Eight Anglo-American stoves are to be placed in each corridor, for the purpose of warming moderately the air that circulates through the building. In each ward a folding screen, so that a patient who requires the ministrations of a clergyman, or who is dying, may be shut off from his comrades.

All the utensils in use throughout the hospital, such as plates, drinking cups, &c., are to be of white earthen-ware, and not metal. The naval hospitals at Chatham, and almost all civil hospitals, have earthen-ware. Each patient to have a knife, fork, and spoon; a drinking cup, soup basin, and plate; a tea-spoon, and a pint cup for tea, the tea to be sent up to the ward, in a metal pot, with spout and cover. He will also be provided, during his stay in the hospital, with shirts, socks, neck and pocket handkerchiefs and towels, his own being placed for the time, in store.

During the Russian war, no public want was felt more severely than that of proper accommodation for those gallant but unfortunate soldiers who returned maimed sick, and suffering. Crowds of them had to be huddled together in inconvenient buildings destitute of every comfort, with an incomplete medical staff, and the most miserable assortment of medicines and materials of every kind. Often they were even left on shipboard, in an infectious atmosphere, and died by scores unnecessarily, and merely from the want of adequate attention. Such a scandal, we trust, will never occur again. If the laborer be worthy of his hire, surely the wounded soldier, returning from the field of duty, is worthy of tenderness at the hands of his countrymen and of his government, for whom he has shed his blood, and sacrificed, perhaps, the prospects of his life.

We believe that the authorities who have charge of the arrangements connected with the new Victoria Military Hospital, so beautifully situated on the banks of Southampton water, near the sweet ruins of Netley, are engaged in deliberating upon a plan for the more imme-

diate and easy removal, from the vessel to the hospital, of any sick or wounded person unable to proceed by the ordinary means of conveyance.

BUTLER HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

In the daily accumulation of books, pamphlets, papers, letters, &c., something is occasionally mislaid, and correspondents perhaps imagine their favors are not courteously received, because immediate notice is not taken of them. The last report of the Butler Hospital unluckily became wedged in behind a mass of literary gatherings, which will account for an apparent delay in commenting upon the present circumstances and condition of the institution.

The Butler Hospital for the Insane, is located in the city of Providence, R. I., and takes its name from a citizen who contributed largely towards its funds.

On the last day of 1855, there were one hundred and thirty-seven patients; and during 1856, fifty-nine new ones were admitted. One hundred and ninety-six were under treatment during the year. Fourteen recovered; eighteen improved; sixteen died; and five remained unimproved. In the mean time, the expenses were \$26,752.84.

But the main feature in the report, it is a communication from Dr. Ray, the medical superintendent. He is everywhere recognized as authority on the subject of insanity. His opinions are not hasty conclusions, or exciting filibustering intellectual extravagances, written for effect. As a scholar, and a mental philosopher, he is without a competitor in this country. Abroad, as at home, his work on insanity has a place where authors like to stand—viz.: in eminent position. But we must pass over all these claims of an individual, known to us through his written thoughts, to ascertain what he has given that is new in the Butler Hospital report for 1857.

The first ten pages relate principally to local matters. The trustees are told about ventilation, warming, &c., &c.; and he speaks of the difficulty of devising amusements for the insane. They must be pleasantly excited. Their torpidity must be roused and the mental apparatus set in motion. We infer that it is an essential curative agency to bring about new trains and associations of thought, which agreeable, light amusements can better accomplish, than any system of solemnities, doleful,

long-faced dyspeptic people could propose. A medical superintendent should be a cheerful, hopeful, agreeable man, according to our views, and it is inferred from Dr. Ray's observations, that he believes so too. There are some terribly heavy sticks in those responsible positions, it is presumed, where family interest outweighs merit, which is not an unfrequent case.

This report, as a whole, does not afford as great an amount of curious or strong material as might have been anticipated from a gentleman of Dr. Ray's calibre. Perhaps he has become weary of teaching those who do not always profit by his experience. If this falls below the reports of former years in point of originality and stateliness of sentiment, on the subject to which he has given the best powers of a disciplined mind, we may expect something superior on the next fitting occasion. Even volcanos have periods of repose.

In conclusion, after expressing our gratification at the prosperity of the institution over which Dr. Ray presides with honor to himself and satisfaction to the community, the following extract must suffice for the present occasion.

"In this country, no subject, probably, occupies the attention of so large a number of people, with so high a degree of interest, as religion in some of its forms and developments. At first sight this may not seem compatible with the existing amount of depravity, but it will be obvious, on a little reflection, that both facts may be strictly true. Its institutions are so widely diffused and respected, that comparatively few can pass through their childhood without receiving impressions that may never be effaced. Its doctrines are received, passively, perhaps, but with none the less confidence in their truth, while even the knotty points of controversial divinity are discussed not exclusively by scholars and critics. More or less frequently, seasons of unusual interest in religion occur in every community, when the religious sentiment, however dormant, is revived and quickened in multitudes, and the most indifferent are reminded, little as they may care about it at the moment, that there are higher objects in the world than this life can furnish. Even those who forget its requirements, and are careless of its obligations, cherish in their inmost heart a certain regard for its sanctions, and pay to it a kind of involuntary homage.

These views are strikingly confirmed by the character of the delusions that agitate the minds of the insane. In the New England hospitals—and I particularize them merely be-

cause I am better acquainted with them than any others—the delusions of a considerable proportion of the patients are of a religious complexion, and it must be borne in mind that in this description of cases are many never supposed to have had a religious origin. I presume that in all of them may be found, at any time, those who imagine they have sinned away the day of grace, or have committed the unpardonable sin, or are doomed to eternal perdition. These persons may not have been distinguished for extraordinary deficiency, or extraordinary sensitiveness. They may not have been dwelling on religious subjects in an unusual manner just previous to the attack. It would seem as if, at the moment when the mind had lost the power of controlling the thoughts, a host of religious impressions, long latent perhaps, but never entirely effaced, was suddenly revived with that kind of vividness which only disease can impart; and instead of serving merely as serious admonitions to duty, they prove a whip of scorpions lacerating and torturing to the utmost limit of endurance. Now it must be considered that the delusions of the insane do not spring out of the ground, but originate more or less remotely in their own mental experience; and this is the reason why the delusions of our patients are so frequently of a religious character. Taking these considerations into account, we shall better comprehend the difference, in all essential points, between religious and political excitement.

The greater intensity of feeling produced by the former is to be attributed to the superior magnitude of the interests at stake. They are no holiday matter which one may attend to or neglect without materially affecting his immediate welfare. They involve nothing less than his future destiny, and are well calculated, if anything is, to produce serious thought, if not overwhelming emotion. They also include an element of personal danger sufficient to excite apprehensions that seldom accompany the gloomiest forebodings of national trouble. A sense of responsibility quickened by the consciousness of past deficiencies and neglected opportunities, also helps to sharpen sensibilities already alive and glowing with excitement. The attention being thus thoroughly aroused, the deepest concern and the strongest emotion would seem to be indicative of the healthiest condition of mind. And so indeed it would be regarded, in a moral point of view, but we are made up of body and mind, and the proper question is not, what experiences are most commendable abstractly considered, but what are

most conducive to the welfare and development of both. The activity of each must be in exact relation to the power of the other, if we would avoid an imperfect and morbid result. In certain exigencies, and especially when controlled by that sympathy which unites people who are possessed by a common emotion, the will is apt to impose upon the bodily powers an amount of effort beyond the healthy limit of endurance. The intention is good and the object desirable, but nevertheless an organic law is infringed, and we pay the penalty in the shape of disorder and disease. The successive steps that lead to this result are obvious enough to the careful observer. In the pursuit of an object of paramount importance, other objects are apt to be degraded below their proper level; the healthy balance of the mental functions, as well as of the various duties of life, is deranged; recreation and exercise are neglected; food is taken irregularly; sleep becomes less and less sound and refreshing; and the whole nervous system is strained to its utmost power of tension. Under such circumstances, the individual is prepared for the invasion of any disease to which he may be predisposed; and thus it happens that insanity is so common accompaniment of what is called religious excitement.

Let me not be misunderstood. I have but poorly expressed my ideas, if I have conveyed the impression that, in this matter, religion or the religious sentiment is at fault. On the contrary, I believe—and it is in some measure, the result of considerable observation of various psychological states—that, in this age of fast living, nothing can be relied upon more surely for preserving the healthy balance of the mental faculties, than an earnest, practical conviction of the great truths of Christianity. But, in striving to obtain this conviction so as to make it a guiding principle of life, as in the pursuit of any other commendable object, the best designs may be imperfectly executed and the best intentions frustrated, by reason of that all-pervading element of human concerns, human infirmity. So long as men are ardent, impulsive, and zealous in a good cause, so long will they be liable to error and misfortune, unless restrained by the happiest endowments, or by a kind of moral training not yet very common. The views here presented may be turned to profitable account, if it teaches us the lesson too often forgotten, that in his best manifestations, man is still a creature of flesh and blood, controlled by the ordinary laws of health and disease. It is for this purpose solely that I

have ventured to introduce the subject on this occasion, at the risk, perhaps, of exposing myself to misapprehension.

WOUND OF THE BLADDER.

At 8 o'clock the 18th of November, a Spaniard and raftsmen was brought into my office, and upon examination I found him as follows, viz:—

Been out all night on a *spree*, and during the occasion, got *stabbed*, either with a knife, or dirk, in the iliac region into the bladder. All efforts to *urinate* proved abortive, in consequence of which, his bladder had become so greatly distended that *urine* was flowing through the incision quite freely—penis was black and oedematous.

Considering the stimulated condition of his system, wound of the *bladder*, and want of good nursing, I deemed the case doubtful, and gave in accordance a guarded prognosis.

Treatment—Failing to introduce a silver, I sent for a gum catheter, which, after varied manipulations, was introduced and some two quarts of bloody urine drawn off.

This relieved him of much pain, after which he was taken to his room, where I endeavored to coaptate the incised parts and retain them in situ by strips of isinglass plaster; but *pressure* sufficient to make the plaster adhere, caused a copious flow of *urine* out of the wound; I then placed a square piece over it to prevent the admission of *air*; enveloped his *penis* and adjacent parts in cloths wrung out of cold water; kept him in a recumbent position; gave a sparse diet; little fluid as possible, and drew off the urine again at 12 M., at 4 P. M., and 10 P. M.

November 19th.—Wound and penis much swollen; bowels costive; some shooting *pain*; introduced catheter three times, and ordered the cold water continued.

Nov. 20th. Swelling declined; penis nearly normal, and this morning he was able to urinate. Pains slight.

Nov. 21st. Prescribed a sufficient pulvis of aa of lept. and pod., to produce a slight evacuation; little pain; is quite smart.

Nov. 22d. Pus is forming; removed plaster and substituted a poultice; cold cloths discontinued.

Nov. 23d, 24th and 25th. Poultice continued; normal pus exudes freely; diet more generous; patient is walking about; promises if I'll cure him he'll not drink any more till Christmas!

Nov. 26th. Not admiring the edges, I ap-

plied the caustic freely, and again the poultice.

Nov. 27th. Left off poultice and applied a healing salve; doing finely.

Nov. 28th, 29th and 30th. Plaster continued; is walking the streets; came to my office to have it dressed.

Dec. 4th. Called at my office; it was nearly normal; removed the salve and discharged him sound and sober! He expressed himself very *grateful*; said if he had \$100 I should have half of it; but unfortunately for me, he hadn't it; so I did as others do—*charged it*.
—*Am. Med. Journal.* J. R. C.

Winona, M. T., Dec. 10, 1856.

MEDICAL GRADUATIONS.

At the recent medical Commencement of the New York Medical College, Dr. FRANK TUTTILL, conferred the prizes for the three best theses from the graduating class, as follows: The first prize to NEHEMIAH NICKERSON, of Connecticut, for his thesis on Infantile Paralysis; the second prize to N. E. THRASHER, of Connecticut, for his thesis on the Effects of Climate and Exercise on the Quantity and Quality of Food; the third prize to JOHN M. FARRINGTON, of New York, for his thesis on the Psycho-physical Relations of Man.

Professor DOREMUS then read the names of the graduates entitled to diplomas as Doctors of Medicine, and Dr. GREEN, with an appropriate address, after delivering the Hippocratic oath, awarded them. The names of the graduates are James H. Brush, N. Y.; Henry W. Cansdell, England; Henry E. Crampton, N. Y.; John Crosby, N. Y.; P. F. C. Deslandes, France; Hugh Doherty, London, Eng.; J. F. Dunker, N. J.; John M. Farrington, N. Y.; Herbert Fern, N. Y.; Moritz Froelich, Germany; Ch. Pennington Frost, Vt.; H. S. Gilbert, N. Y.; Story Norman Goss, Vt.; Orange H. Green, N. Y.; Jos. Hafner, Germany; Jacob Henggeler, Switzerland; Francis Heuel, Germany; George T. Hough, N. Y.; John Q. A. Hawes, Maine; Offny W. Hornsby, Miss.; Levi Jewett, Conn.; E. E. Lee, N. Y.; L. Michel, France; John James Mitchel, N. Y.; Nehemiah Nickerson, Conn.; Mortimer C. Northrop, N. Y.; R. J. O'Sullivan, N. Y.; R. L. Parsons, N. Y.; W. Owen Smith, Bermuda; Jas. S. Woods, N. Y.

Honorary degrees were then conferred on the following gentlemen: Juan Lantuer, Cuba; Joseph Mears, M. A., Ala.; Stephen Rogers, Panama; John Grover, M. D., Maine; E. R. Paine, Valparaiso.

SELECTIONS FROM HIPPOCRATES.

The ropemaker complained of a very bilious disorder; and, upon applying caustical (or burning) remedies, he lost a great deal of blood downwards about the equinox.

The Chalcidonian, who was brought from the gates to the market-place, about the equinox, being in pain from a rupture about the right breast, spit up now and then a pale greenish matter. The belly was in good order. A sweat began the seventh, which lasted for the most part to the eighth, and the crisis happened the fourteenth. About the fortieth, swellings appeared behind both ears; nor was it unlikely that a suppuration should follow, though it did not.

Aristodemus was burnt upon his breast; and so was the son of Philis, for an abscess that came after a fall; but he had had a pain higher before this.

After the autumnal equinox relapses happen, and at other times to the winter solstice.

After the summer solstice, the wife of Achelous miscarried the sixth day, being full of blood and chilly. She sweated afterwards, and had a crisis the fourteenth. How many months gone with child I know not. Twenty days after this she said she miscarried of another male child; but, whether she said true or not, I cannot tell.

About the winter solstice the wind was northerly. Jaundices of very deep colors appeared, sometimes with a chilliness, sometimes without. The tongue was burnt up the third day. About the sixth and seventh, great disorders that lasted long. The fourteenth, an astringency in the belly that could not be removed by physic; and no sweats, as is usual in fevers. In some the spleens were small, extended to the right hypochondre, and rumbled upon being touched. Hemorrhages succeeded, and such depurations by urine, but more especially by stool (for the belly had been long bound), as produced a crisis. Where these things did not happen, but the spleens were tumefied, they bled at the left nostril.

After the solstice, rough winter weather, with northerly winds, and in a short time southerly, for fifteen days; and then abundance of snow for fourteen days more. About this season deep-colored jaundices came on, that terminated not in a clear and evident manner, but returned again. After the snow came southerly winds and gentle showers. Runnings at

the nose ensued, with and without a fever. In one person, who had been in moderate pain before, it fell upon the teeth on the right side, the eyebrows, and the eye. They were hoarse too; the throat was inflamed, and the glands called *σπογγοί* (*amygdalæ*) swelled, attended with soft swellings about the ears and jaws, that subsided with the fever. Many of these happened above and on each side, at the beginning of the fever; and some had the tonsils swelled in the autumn and the winter. Add to this, branny foulnesses of the skin came on; and many women miscarried all kind of ways, and had hard labors.

A maid, who had a crisis the sixth day, had a relapse the sixth, and another crisis in six days. And in six or eight days all the crises happened at that time.

About the setting of the Pleiades, the wife of Meander, the blind man, spit from the first a pale greenish matter, and soon after, about the sixth day, purulent. The liver swelled, and she had a little purging. What she spit was in a small quantity, white, broad, and like purulent flesh. She had an aversion to food, and died about the twentieth.

Thesior's servant, in the neighborhood, was taken with a bilious severe purging, and a distension of the hypochondres, occasioned by something that was caustical. The sixth day after the purging was stopped, she had one large thin stool, fell into a sweat immediately, and had a crisis, without any more purging. The same hour she shivered and grew feverish, but it went off again the same hour.

The wife of Thersander, who was not very leucophlegmatic, fell into an acute fever upon suckling. Her tongue, as other parts were burnt up, was likewise burnt at the same time, and became rough like thick hail. Worms also came out of her mouth. About the twentieth she had not a perfect crisis.

About the setting of the Pleiades, Metrophantus's son, who was wounded on the head with a brickbat by another boy, was taken with a fever twelve days after; occasioned by rubbing the parts about the wound in cleansing it. A coldness succeeded, and the lips swelled immediately, but the skin beyond the ulcer was in many places very thin. Upon trepanning without delay, neither pus came out, nor was the patient relieved; but upon the left jaw, by the ear, (for here the wound was,) there seemed to be a collection of matter. This, however, went off too without suppuration, and there was immediately a collection in the right arm. The patient died the twenty-fourth.

COMMUNICATIONS.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

CLERICAL HEALTH.*

NUMBER XII.—BY WM. M. CORNELL, M. D.

The Eye—Beauty—Design—Education of—Rules for preserving the Sight—Effects of Darkness—Spectacles—Importance of Vision—Waywardness of the Blind—Bad effect of tobacco on the Eye—Of Reading in Cars—Of Quack Oculists.

We have read of a philosopher, who, when asked for proof of the existence of a Deity, picked up a straw, and began to demonstrate from it the existence of a Great First Cause. But, if the existence of a Supreme Being can be inferred from a straw, how much more conclusive must be the proof, in the design manifested in the human eye? Paley well said, "were there no example of contrivance in the world, except the eye, it would be sufficient to establish the fact that an intelligent creative Power existed. No human art, or ingenuity, can produce anything equal in beauty and perfection to the eye."

In treating of the subject of vision, one feels compelled to exclaim, in terms of the highest admiration, of the superior beauty and wonderful contrivance of the inimitable organ—the eye. It is the most beautiful, as well as the most important of all the organs of sense. It is the great medium between the mind and external objects. It has been appropriately called the *window* of the soul. We could never gain so perfect a knowledge in any other way of many objects as by once *seeing* them.

It will not be necessary in speaking of the healthy eye, or of the means used to *preserve* the sight, that the anatomy or physiology of this organ should be minutely described. It is the property of all our special senses that they are capable of being educated. The education of the eye is of vast importance. In the management of infants, attention should always be given to the eye. A full blaze of light should never be allowed to break upon the eyes of an infant; nor, indeed, upon the eyes of any person.

Infants have no knowledge of distance; and hence, they always attempt to grasp every object which they see. The knowledge of distance is wholly a matter of education.

Proper training may do much to remedy *near-sightedness*. The object to be seen should be kept at as great a distance as possible, and still be within the range of distinct vision. It should be daily removed to a little greater dis-

tance, as the eye is educated to see farther.—In this way, by habit merely, vision will be gradually lengthened.

The eye may be educated to see objects at a far greater distance than it naturally can.—The sailor will see objects when the student cannot. This long sight of the sailor has been gained by the habit of looking at a great distance; and this short sight of the student acquired by conning over his books. Among the Jews, who regulated their time by moons, certain men were appointed to give notice of the first appearance of the new moon; and, it is said, these watchmen would discover the hair-like crescent a day before others could see it. Persons have been known who could see the moons of Jupiter with the naked eye.

The eye may be trained so as to measure distances nearly as correctly as though it were done by rule. Persons, who use lines, or ruled paper, to write on, will not write a straight line without; but, by habit, they will soon learn to do without these unnecessary guides.

The eye may be educated so as to judge correctly of height or depth, form or size.—There is a great difference in persons in *observing* objects. We might see a hundred persons in a room, and go away and not be able to tell how a single one of them was dressed, while an observer of fashion could describe minutely the dress of every one of them. The eye, (like any other organ of the body,) requires to be used, that it may be usable. It should be employed for a time, and then rested. If the eye is not called into active use, its functions soon cease to be discharged, and its power of vision becomes enfeebled. Many persons who have had bad eyes in their youth, have found them much improved in middle age. In general this improvement may be ascribed to their knowing much better how to use them. The following rules may be useful to all who will practise them, both in strengthening and preserving the eye—

Good eyes depend, principally, upon the measure, the time, and the kind of labor we exact from them. We may either weaken, or preserve them. It is not injurious to the eye to look upon small objects, at a proper distance, if we do not move it too quickly, nor fix it too long on one point. Reading constantly and quickly enfeebles the eye more than writing, because in the former, we move it more frequently than in the latter. Hence, it is less injurious to read and write alternately, than to read constantly. It is very necessary to have from our window a distant view, because the fatigued eye rests with pleasure and advantage

*Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1856, by WILLIAM M. CORNELL, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Massachusetts.

on distant objects. The eye is often injured by looking at one object for a long time through a magnifying glass, such as the telescope. The same injurious effect is produced by looking for a long time, through a microscope. Those who are much employed with these instruments should always choose the morning hours, and fair days, for their observations, and temper the too dazzling sun-light by proper screens. No microscope should be used which does not give to the object the necessary clearness. A lens which magnifies very much injures the eye. Lenses with a small focal distance are more injurious than those whose focus is greater. We should never close one eye, while observing with the other. It is better to change, or look for a time with one, and then with the other eye, keeping both open at the same time.

It is as injurious to the eye to work with too bright sun light, as it is to read in the twilight, or with too little light in a dark winter's day. We have all felt the inconvenience of reading in too bright a light, or in a green house.

The study of a scholar should not admit too much light, and it should be so constructed that the light should fall moderately upon the writing desk.

The eye cannot be very much fatigued with out being injured. It is always better to rise and work early in the morning, than to sit up late at night, because the first part of the night is best for rest. Sleep is then more refreshing and we are much more apt to get it, than when the brain and the eyes have both become fatigued by late study.

We should never undertake work which fatigues the eye, immediately upon rising from bed. The long repose and darkness of the night have made the eye very susceptible, and even slight application weakens it.

Nothing tends more to strengthen the eyes than to wash them thoroughly, upon rising, with cold water. But there are cases in which warm water is preferable. After ablution, a walk of a mile or two, allowing them to rest on distant objects, will aid much in strengthening them. Every student for the good of his eyes, as well as for other considerations, should avoid whatever may cause a strong tendency of blood to the head. Heating liquors and indigestible food, especially at night, should always be shunned.

Darkness, constant darkness, is ruinous to the eye. Persons who live almost constantly in dark caves, or mines, or who have been long confined in dungeons, are unable to see objects distinctly, excepting in a dark shade or in the

twilight. So, also, those who are exposed to bright fires are very apt to become blind, or to have cataracts. All brilliantly illuminated apartments are prejudicial to the eyes.

The fashion of wearing glasses for short-sightedness is very injurious to the sight. Not half so many persons are short-sighted, as generally imagine themselves to be. That person only is really short-sighted, who cannot recognize the features of a man, three steps from him, and who cannot read a tolerably large print, at the distance of a span. When convex spectacles are really necessary, the glasses should be arranged for each eye, in particular; as it is rare for one eye to have the same power of vision with the other. Convex spectacles are necessary only when we are unable to recognize *near* objects. Spectacles of *green* glass ought to be used never. When we were young, we were *green* enough to use green glasses for many years. At that period, we visited the father of President Wayland, of Brown university, at Saratoga Springs. The old gentleman was a pure-blooded Englishman, and one of the best gardeners in the country, — not that this was his profession, for he was a worthy and exemplary minister of the Baptist denomination. He worked every morning in his fine garden, and the writer with him, with his green glasses on. One morning the old gentleman said, "It seems to me, all our young men are growing blind." Why so, sir? we inquired. "Because so many of them wear glasses," said he. We replied, we had been advised to wear them on account of weak eyes. "For that very reason," said he, "I advise you to leave them off." Soon after, we laid them aside; and there they have laid, in all their greenness, for more than twice the period that old Troy was besieged.

Vision is a subject of momentous importance to a professional man. Without eyes, it is very difficult for him to work. He can accomplish but little. In making this remark, we are fully aware, that it has been said (and perhaps truly), that Milton never could have written his "Paradise Lost," if he had not been blind; and with equal truth, may it be added, he could never have written *such* a "Paradise Lost," as he has, if he had not once have seen. We are also aware that President Dwight could dictate to two amanuenses at the same time, and that in this way a large part of his Divinity Discourses were prepared for the press. If all this were so — and we would not vouch for its truth — we would add we have but few Miltons, or Presi-

dent Dwights. They form the exceptions, not the rules. We are also aware that the blind are now taught to read, and do many wonderful things. But they are generally an indolent and "perverse generation." In justification of this remark, we may be allowed to relate the following story: Some time since, we visited an old friend and class-mate, Dr. M., who is a very large man, and has charge of a public institution for paupers. Among the anecdotes, which he related, was this. "I was more perplexed to know what to do with three or four blind men, than with all the others under my care. At length, it occurred to me that I would set them to sawing wood, directing some men, who had eyes, to put the wood in order for being sawed. They had been at work but a few minutes, when, having occasion to pass near them, I heard one of the blind men say to the man who had eyes, 'Is the pig doctor about here?' Why, asked the man with eyes, 'Case, if he ba'nt we'll take a smoke,' said the blind man."

The proper management of the eyes, especially to a student, is an affair of no trivial moment. If his eyes be ruined, all his other acquisitions must be, comparatively, of but little value. The clergy of this country some time since were called to realize this, in one, who for many years stood prominent among them, and who has written an eloquent and extensive commentary upon the sacred Scriptures. By an abuse, or rather misuse of his eyes, he was wholly laid aside from the pastoral office, and from the employment of his pen. Such occurrences are comparatively rare. But cases, in which the duties of clergymen are but imperfectly performed, on account of an improper use of the eyes, are very common.

A frequent cause of partial or total amaurosis, or loss of sight, is snuffing powdered tobacco, often mingled with other vile stuff, up the nose. If the nose had been designed for a dust-hole of this kind, judging from the fitness of means to ends in the rest of the body, it would have been anatomically constructed with the bottom side up; as, by such a change, it would answer this purpose much better.

Dr. Locock, of York, at a late meeting of the British Medical Association, communicated some very interesting matters upon the use of tobacco. Omitting in this place, as irrelevant to the present subject, its injurious effects upon the lungs, brain, and whole nervous system, when chewed or smoked, we will quote the following, as causing disease in the eyes, or loss of vision. "It (excessive snuff-

ing) causes falling off of the hair, sloughing of the eye-lids, and blindness." Many cases of blindness, caused by snuffing, are related in the medical books, to which we might refer, were it deemed necessary.

Scarcely any practice has a more deleterious effect upon the eyes, than reading in the cars, when riding in them. The jar of the vehicle, by the wheels, the noise of the moving machine, and more especially the sudden transition of light and darkness, seriously affect the organs of vision. It may seem to some, quite too much time to lose, without reading, when journeying from one place to another by railroad; and this temptation to read is enhanced, usually, by the example of the multitude. Almost every one, at such a time, has a newspaper, or book in his hand, which he is engaged in perusing, and we know that evil example is quite too often followed. Now we assert—and the assertion is not made without some data and too much sad experience—that the time thus occupied, had better be lost, if lost it must be, without reading, than employed in this way.

Upon the perfection of the optical instrument, the eye, the most important inlet of knowledge, the most valuable medium of our communication with surrounding persons and objects; and a prime contributor to the full enjoyment of our other senses; or, of the wisdom and skill of the Great Architect exhibited in its construction, we may say that blindness is one of the greatest misfortunes which can befall a human being. With all the alleviations which circumstances the most favorable can afford, there is scarcely any affliction, short of death, more trying than blindness. The great English bard, above named, frequently alluded to his loss of vision, in tones of anguish and despondency, as though some great recent misfortune had overtaken him; and if in a mind highly gifted as his, and furnished with such inexhaustible stores of knowledge, it was so irreconcilable an event, we may imagine somewhat of the magnitude of this loss, in others whose minds are less cultivated and refined. It has always been a matter of surprise to us, that people who have eyes take so little care of them, and misuse and abuse them, as they often do. But this is almost always the case where health is concerned. It is the last thing to which a well man will give his attention. He will blunder on, unrestrained by remonstrances and cautions, till the calamity overtakes him; and then, no pains are too great, no expense too

unbounded, and no potion too bitter, to regain what is now lost. This has been a principal reason why we have thought it important to dwell so long upon the preservation of health. No maxim can be more true than this, — “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Many eyes have been ruined by the prescription and dabbling of itinerant, ignorant oculists. We know a man whose eyes were bad, but who lost what little sight he had by having them tinkered by such a quack, and who paid the mountebank fifty dollars for tinkering them.

(Communicated for The Medical World.)

ECONOMY IN OUR FOOD.

EDITORS MEDICAL WORLD:—In No. 18, pp. 495-9, of your publication, there is an article entitled, “*The Cheapest and most Wholesome Kinds of Food*,” which is well worthy a careful perusal. To make the subject a little plainer, and to add a little information, perhaps, to some, upon this important, and should be interesting, to all, subject—*The Food we eat*—permit me to submit the following tables, from various sources, with some remarks intended to be practical.

Should any one ask why these tables were not submitted sooner, after the article referred to appeared, I may just say, I did not then receive the *World*.

The two following tables, which were prepared by Mr. Orange Judd, for the editorial department of the ably edited *American Agriculturist*, will compare favorably with any, for their highly useful, instructive, interesting and practical bearing upon *economy in our food*:

TABLE NO. 1.

100 lbs.	Muscle-forming Elements, in lbs.	Fat-forming Elements, in lbs.	Relative Proportion of each, in lbs.	Husky, or Woody fiber, in lbs.
Barley,	14	64	1 to 4½	15
Beans,	26	42	1 to 1½	10
Beets,	2	12	1 to 6	(?)
Buckwheat,	8	54	1 to 6½	25
Carrots,	1½	10	1 to 6½	3
Corn,	12	77	1 to 6½	6
Oats,	17	66	1 to 4	20
Peas,	24	52	1 to 2½	8
Potatoes,	2	19	1 to 9½	4
Turnips (field),	1½	9	1 to 6	2
Do. (Swedish),	2½	12	1 to 5½	2
Wheat Flour,	11	79	1 to 7	
Wheat Bran,	18	6	1 to ½	55
* Cheese,	28	27	1 to 1	
† Cheese,	45	6	1 to ½	

* Whole milk,

† Skim-milk.

TABLE NO. 2.

	Cost.	Muscle-producing Elements.	Cost of Muscle-producing Elements.
Barley,	\$1 50 per bu.	8.4 lbs.	18c. per lb.
Beans,	2 50 “	16.6 “	15c. “
Corn,	1 10 “	6.7 “	16½c. “
Oats,	68 “	5.2 “	13c. “
Peas,	2 00 “	14.3 “	14c. “
Potatoes,	1 50 “	1.6 “	94c. “
Turnips,	50 “	1.2 “	41c. “
Flour (fine),	12 00 per bbl.	22.0 “	54c. “
Flour (unbolted),	11 00 “	24.8 “	44c. “

Says Dr. W. W. Hall, speaking of these tables in his *Journal of Health*, from which work I have taken them, for June, 1855, — and, by the way, a very good work it is: —

“These tables will richly pay their patient and mature study; for their practical use will save many a dollar to the industrious poor. The estimates will be better understood by remembering that the *muscle-forming elements* means *strength*, — the strength of labor, — or, you might better term it ‘labor power.’ For example: eighteen cents worth of barley gives one pound of *labor-power*. A bushel of barley gives over eight pounds of *labor-power*.” But, to carry it a little further, we subjoin a table which he has prepared, using the prices in table No. 2.

TABLE NO. 3.

One pound of labor-power from	Potatoes costs	94c. per lb.
“ “ “ “ “	Fine Flour, “	54c. “
“ “ “ “ “	Unbolt’d do “	44c. “
“ “ “ “ “	Turnips,	41c. “
“ “ “ “ “	Barley,	18c. “
“ “ “ “ “	Corn,	17c. “
“ “ “ “ “	Beans,	15c. “
“ “ “ “ “	Peas,	14c. “
“ “ “ “ “	Oats,	13c. “

There is an amount of practical information which will pay well for the labor expended by them in preparing these tables. By a careful examination of these, and those given by Dr. Dana, we need not go to the animal kingdom, or to the mineral kingdom, to complete the constituents of perfect nutrition. The bran of wheat has *seven* per cent. of the various salts, and oats *four* that are reckoned essential. Wheat, corn, oats, barley, and others, have the fat to keep us from freezing to death, without the corrupting pork-fat, or nauseating blubber; while they contain all of the requisites for cell-formation of a much purer quality than that which has already been once converted into fat or muscle.

Oats seem to rank first in cheapness; but, as Dr. Dana has already forcibly called attention to their value in sickness and health, no more need be said concerning them. Peas and beans come next in cheapness, but they would not be desirable for daily food, not even

if that objectionable article, which is so often used for food — *swine's flesh, or fat* — should be added, to give "flavor," or, equally as bad, to prevent "costiveness," as some would say, which experience and observation does not show to be necessary to a healthy und unperverted appetite. "Pork and beans!" Why add the filthiest of all creation — the juices of the acknowledged *pest-house* of filthiness and disease, from time almost unknown, to healthy articles of food, as *seasoners* and *flavorers*? Graham bread and vegetables obviate all these difficulties.

O. W. TRUE.

PHILLIPS, ME., 1857.

BUFFALO, March 25th, 1857.

Gentlemen,—Your circulation in this region must be gratifying, and any one might safely have predicted it. The age is liberally inclined. Those obstinate, opinionated old remains of antiquity who have no disposition to know whether the globe turns upon its axis, or actually stands stock still, like their own ideas, are rapidly giving way before the rolling waves of progressive intelligence.

Buffalo has its conservatives in medicine, its pretenders, and its despotic exactors. But it is not probable that the latter can either control the actions of those daring spirits who are determined to act independently of cliques. We are too near Albany and New York, the medical suns of this smaller planet, to shine with an independent light.

You know as much of the medical institutions of Buffalo, perhaps, as those residents of the city who are not allowed to participate in their advantages; hence, it is quite unnecessary to dwell on that subject. How is it to be accounted for that there are such bitter animosities existing among those who profess to entertain the highest order of fraternal feelings towards the brotherhood of truly scientific practitioners of a much abused but noble profession? This preaching one thing and doing diametrically contrary to the statutes made and provided, to say nothing of the provoking embarrassments in the way of success, if one happens to have a little more talent, brilliancy or popular manners than some embodiment of *Æsculapian* selfishness, who wishes no innovations into his charmed circle of powers that might be discovered to be superior to his own, presents a strange anomaly to the world.

In Buffalo, as everywhere else, physicians are in alarming excess. There are more of

them than the population requires; still, they multiply and struggle on for bread and position. Those who might be supposed very prominent at home, on account of certain relations in business, that stereotype their names in print, give no evidence of commanding qualifications or even the ability to make an impression on society. How they all exist, is a mystery. It is hardly possible that one-half of the whole are supported purely by legitimate professional labors. Our compensation is too small; and when another fact is taken into account, viz.: that not half of our earnings are ever paid, it will certainly discourage others from looking, with longing eyes, to this over stocked city, with an expectation of finding a foot-hold.

Were any to propose the English system, the only sure one for obtaining payment for medical services, of taking a fee for a visit before leaving the patient, a physician might acquire property and have something for old age; but it would meet with no advocates here, I am sure, because some gentlemen would never be certain of another call, under such circumstances. It would be precisely so in Boston, where there used to be extraordinary explosions of half-suppressed wrath during my pupilage, when it was said that this or that gentleman, not of the elect select, was rising rapidly into public favor.

Our humble attempts to establish an aristocracy of intellect in this country, would work admirably, if the company possessed cerebral capital enough for commencing operations. Boston, New York, and Philadelphia will always have the ascendancy in medical affairs, at least for a century to come. The folly, therefore, of striving to keep so many small schools from dying of asphyxia, throughout the interior, as are kept alive simply by unceasing personal effort, as the instrumentalities of ambitious individuals, is apparent to the medical public. Unknown aspirants for renown hop into a professor's chair, as travellers mount a donkey, because it is the only conveyance that offers, and away they ride, querying within themselves, what is thought of their elevation.

Buffalo is a city of commercial enterprise, rather than the focus of science or literature. There are scores of excellent men in it, whose industry, enterprise, and liberality are creditable to humanity; and there are some high-minded, excellent physicians too, who keep quite aloof from medical politics, which can be of no permanent advantage. Dr. Hamilton has a deserved reputation in surgery. Were he to plant himself in your midst, he would soon make

a sensation in Boston. It is a pity to have his fine acquirements and social characteristics circumscribed to a small orbit, altogether too limited for a whole-souled man of his calibre.

Correspondents from other cities give melancholy accounts of the inroads of homœopathy upon the regular type of practice. To my grief, they are dipping deeply into the very best patronage of Buffalo. We have all made an egregious mistake in denouncing the sugar-and-milk gentlemen. It has given them what they would not have had in fifty years, had we kept quiet, viz.: the entire sympathy of a majority of the leading families. It is now too late to retrace the steps, for multiply they will until our forces must eventually be in the minority. This is, perhaps, a bold prediction, but they are gaining rapidly everywhere.

Yours very respectfully,
D. J. J., M. D.

(For The Medical World.)

MEDICAL MATTERS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—A long, cold and tedious winter has quite unfitted me for writing. Surely, if any people in the United States deserve commiseration on account of climate, the sympathy belongs to us. We are perpetually warring with the elements. It is always one extreme or the other—too hot or too cold; and the last condition embraces all of nine months out of twelve. Our earnings all go for fuel, overcoats and accompaniments, to keep from freezing. No wonder the natives of New Hampshire wander over the globe. They are said to be everywhere. The fact is, it is go or freeze—and this explains the mystery why the State is annually drained of its young men. Hardy, bold, determined fellows they are, who carry with them their only inheritance, sound constitutions, a determined spirit, energy of character, and any conceivable amount of ambition. They leave the parental roof, as often as otherwise, barefooted, with empty pockets, and the next we who remain on the granite rocks hear from them, they are celebrated jurists, distinguished medical philosophers, leading merchants, members of Congress, and anything else required of them. Our staple product therefore is an annual crop of men,—and have not a round number made their mark?

But there is danger of wandering from the subject upon which it was my intention to

write. There are physicians in this State, equal to all possible demands; in other words, quite as many as can find profitable professional employment; and, as a body, they are well prepared for all responsibilities. There are no better every-day practitioners on the continent. Some of the surgeons who have resided in New Hampshire attained great and deserved eminence. Dr. Nathan Smith, Dr. Twitchell, Dr. Perkins, Dr. Massey, Dr. Crosby, and others whose names are within call, were brilliant, successful operators, whose labors are incorporated with the medical literature of the country.

Quacks never succeeded well in New Hampshire, for the reason that the people have had confidence in the medical school at Hanover; and if any one commenced business who had not been prepared at that institution, they had no confidence in him.

Physicians in New Hampshire are badly paid, and imperfectly estimated. There are very many who would have been *the* authorities, had they established themselves in the Atlantic cities, instead of pitching their tabernacles in the cheerless nooks and corners of this region of frosts and mountains. A host of them have accumulated handsome properties, and hold high positions in society, but not one of them ever had his deserts. They should have had more for the exercise of their fine talents. As in Boston, New York, or Philadelphia, our physicians can never, or rarely relinquish business, they feel obliged to toil on till life is worn away, in providing for those nearest and dearest, who are dependent upon their labors.

A city practitioner can have no adequate conception of the hardships through which we pass for a simple living. We ride miles over hills, on long winding roads, by night as well as day,—carrying the medicine and doing all imaginable kinds of service,—such as bandaging fractured bones; bleeding; drawing teeth, &c. &c., mixing all branches—and then charge it. If we realize a fourth part of our earnings, much of which is paid in articles of produce needed in a family, it is thankfully received. With you it must be fine indeed to be called into a palace,—shown into a chamber where the patient is luxuriously reposing upon down, shaded by silken curtains,—where you write a prescription with a massive gold pencil, and then receive for a single visit, ten steps from your door, as much as I should have for riding ten miles, paying half a dozen tolls, and losing a call or two while absent.

Our physicians have not leisure for writing, on account of the difficulty of having no opportunity for collecting their thoughts. A few of them, in the large towns where wealth has been centralized and fashion gives a tone to things, and the way of doing is rapidly changing from the customs of the rural districts, improve their spare moments most creditably as contributors to the periodicals. No treatises on purely professional subjects, to my recollection, have emanated from our midst. And the reason is obvious—there is really no time, amply qualified as many gentlemen are, who might be mentioned, to enlarge the boundaries of science.

Our medical school, already referred to incidentally, is an honor to the State. It deserves better patronage. If the rich and prosperous natives of New Hampshire, established abroad, were properly solicited, ample funds could be collected both for the college and the medical department. The right men have not been put on committees for that purpose. Old fogies,—the remnants of a past age in church and state,—make no favorable impression. Were a few accomplished, young and ardent friends of the school to call for assistance, no doubt it would be successful. But I am becoming enthusiastic;—pardon me. I am proud of the men New Hampshire has given to the world,—and find it difficult to confine myself to a dissertation on doctors.

With much respect, truly yours,

J. R. J——. M. D.

Concord, N. H., March 25, 1857.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL.

THE LAWS OF HEALTH.—Men of profound attainments have been expounding the principles upon which we may eat, sleep and exercise, without falling into disease, till it requires a very orderly, disciplined mind to determine which of the hundreds of authors is entitled to the credit of having truthfully interpreted nature; most of them are right, in some respects; and out of their aggregated wisdom, a rule for living, to prevent premature dying, may be gathered.

Since Dr. Alcott's volume appeared, we have been occasionally gleaning the essential properties of his philosophy from a mass of materials in which the real gems of the book are hidden; and this is our deliberate conclusion of the matter. Had this same treatise

emanated from some eminent foreign medical notability, there would have been no end to the panegyrics bestowed upon it by medical reviewers. As in ancient times, however, the question is still mooted—can any thing good come out of Nazareth?

The main features that seem to have been seized upon by the extremely fastidious—those who feed exclusively on intellectual essences, are the homely phraseologies, and too common expressions in discoursing upon a dignified topic. But it should be recollected that the author designed to address mankind, instead of half a dozen old dilapidated doctors of law, who would have all knowledge in classical Latin concealed in a napkin, if their taste were consulted.

Of course, physicians will object to many of the author's propositions; but why, it would puzzle them to answer. It is so much easier to find fault, and say severe things of our neighbors, than to praise them for their virtues, with those who ordinarily intend to deal justly and honor those who have done well for society, that it has become second nature among very well educated people to criticise, without reason, and to question the attainments of others when they exhibit powers superior to their own.

However, it is against our judgment to interfere with the rights and privileges of others, and one of the dearest of these, in the estimation of a medico-literary citizen of the United States, is to pounce upon authors, whether wright or wrong. Had the Mosaic Cosmogony been published in 1857, there is no knowing what would have been its destiny.

To return. Dr. Alcott is a man of exceeding industry, who gathers his facts from available sources, and then classifies them, and thus places them within the reach of the common mind. He does not aim to instruct the learned, if we understand him; but the ignorant. And this is the great error of his scientific efforts, according to the views of those who could not compose ten sentences of medical philosophy, worth remembering.

This is an exacting period in the history of civilization. Nothing is precisely what it should be; and yet, were nothing accomplished, the complaint would be long and loud. Now study Dr. Alcott's Laws of Health, and then produce a work to eclipse it.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF THE HORSE.—While men of every condition admire this noble animal, the servant of all, and efforts, sanctioned by high authority, are made to improve his form, speed and blood, it has always been

considered a vulgar profession in this country to study the diseases to which the horse is incident. European countries, with a thousand years of civilization, and far greater advances in every department of useful knowledge and in practical humanity, abound with men of marked attainments in science, who have praiseworthy qualified themselves to understand the maladies of the domestic animals. In short, veterinary medicine has assumed the dignity of a profession, and those who have mastered the anatomy and studied the physiological laws by which they are governed, command confidence or respect. Contrast the position of a veterinary surgeon and general practitioner in England or France, with a New England farrier. The first is a gentleman, systematically taught, and properly sustained by an intelligent community. In the latter, the very fact that he sometimes gives his opinion in regard to a sick cow, the stable dog, or forces a bolus down the throat of an indisposed and suffering steed, sinks him in the social scale as low as the brutes where his services are required.

For the honor of the new world, and especially New England, which prides itself on a grave amount of solemn propriety, and the happy tact in keeping aloof from ungenteel associations, we hope that a revolution in public sentiment is approaching, when it will be viewed as an elevated calling, to relieve the horse and ox that knoweth his master's crib, from the burning fevers, deep-seated inflammations, and pains and penalties incident to their lives of servitude.

George H. Dadd, M. D., who was educated in England to be a veterinary surgeon, is the first writer among us who has produced a thorough work on this long neglected branch of practice.

The Anatomy and Physiology of the Horse, with anatomical and questional illustrations,—containing, also, a series of examinations on equine anatomy and physiology, with instructions in reference to dissections, and the mode of making anatomical preparations,—to which is added, a glossary of veterinary technicalities, toxicological chart, and dictionary of veterinary science, by this gentleman, is a large, nobly constructed octavo, in double columns, containing two hundred and ninety-one pages. Messrs. Jewett & Company, the Boston publishers, have consulted the eyes of the public, and put the text in a large, fair type, which can be seen without spectacles. Plates, executed beyond question with fidelity to nature,

and, in the copy before us, colored, so as to resemble bones, muscles, and tendons, embellish the work.

This, therefore, is a general description of Dr. Dadd's elegant volume. Imitations will spring up in abundance, on discovering the respect shown the author by the press, and those who best of all others are competent to appreciate the value of his labors.

We make no pretensions to a familiar acquaintance with the science on which Dr. Dadd is building up a strong reputation. He cannot be ignorant who writes so well. This proposition is self-evident. If some of the hundreds of young unemployed physicians would qualify themselves for veterinary practice, in the large cities, a lucrative income might be realized, and their individual position would be just what they should determine to have it—high or low.

Governments abroad sustain veterinary colleges, and the armies are as thoroughly officered with veterinary as regimental surgeons. Veterinary institutions are needed here as much as in Europe, and when legislatures charter and endow them, as necessary in the economy of the State, students will matriculate, professors be sought for among the first ranks of medico-literary men, and the poor heretofore neglected horse receive that kind care at the hands of responsible practitioners which is exacted of those who prescribe for our families.

BRAIN OF THE HORSE.—A very finely colored lithographic drawing of the brain and arteries of the horse, has been published by that indefatigable comparative anatomist, Dr. Dadd, the Veterinary Surgeon. Originality is not claimed for them. There can be nothing new in the cerebral structure that has not been dissected, displayed, demonstrated and pictured a hundred times over. This pictorial illustration, nevertheless, is valuable for reference. There is but a slight departure in the arrangement of the arteries, from the human brain, and the organ, as a whole, is equally striking in its resemblance to higher types. This is an enlarged representation, copied from Blaire. The weight of a full grown horse's brain is put down at two pounds and a half.

MIND AND MATTER.—After half the gifted reviewers in Christendom have expended their powers of analysis upon Sir Benjamin Brodie's little compact treatise on this old, but always engrossing subject—the properties of mind and matter—it would be equivalent to carry-

ing coals to Newcastle to comment as though the author had never before been heard of, or the merits of his book freely discussed.

Messrs. G. P. Putnam & Co., 321 Broadway, New York, were fortunate in bringing out this compact, richly-stored book. There is no way of discussing the properties of mind, that the philosophers have not exhausted. They wore it threadbare in the days of Greek and Roman glory. There are no reasoners more ingenious or subtle in their arguments now, than when Socrates lived. There have always been Sir Oracles to direct us what to think and how to believe.

The work is in a series of dialogues, which must have been popular to have passed through three editions in England. Without attempting to explain the method pursued by Sir Benjamin, in presenting his views on mind and matter, it would be sensible, and perhaps well received to show what they are not, in the paragraph that defines what they are. Notes by an American editor, are additions, but how far they enhance the value of the original series of chapters, as they were thrown off by the sage author, those who read both will be best qualified to decide.

We like to ponder over these mental speculations. Whether one is wiser at the close than when he commenced study, cannot be determined authoritatively.

Buy "Mind and Matter." Its facts, gathered by an experienced hand exhibit the results of extensive reading and profound reflection; and facts are landmarks, wherever found.

Had an author of less renown sent this production abroad, it would never have forced its way through three editions.

FLOATING FACTS.

Recovery from Strychnine. — Josiah Montgomery, a police officer, in Canada, swallowed by mistake four grains of strychnine. Two emetics were given — to no purpose — when Dr. Bly, twenty minutes after the poison was taken, found the patient on the floor, dreadfully convulsed, with the severest form of tetanic spasms, and at times his whole muscular system was rigid, and he lay in the opisthotonos position, resting upon his head and his heels, with his body raised clear from the floor in the form of an arch. Dr. Bly applied chloroform, which relieved the spasms in about three minutes, and stopped them completely in ten minutes, when a third powerful emetic was given. If the chlo-

roform application was remitted, it was found necessary to keep the patient constantly under the influence of the anæsthetic. In about ten minutes after the third emetic was taken, vomiting was produced. Warm water was now given in large quantities, and thrown off the stomach as soon as a sufficient quantity was drunk, until it was believed that the stomach was cleansed of the poison remaining in it. The chloroform was still administered, and the patient was kept under its effects until five o'clock on Sunday morning, when the spasms were almost entirely broken up, and at six o'clock they ceased entirely. During the time that the spasmodic action was controlled by the chloroform, the system had opportunity to throw off the poison that had been taken up by the absorbents; and when that was effected, the patient was out of danger. He had retained his consciousness during the whole of the period that he had suffered from the effects of the poison.

The Human Figure. — An examination of 20,000 infants at the Maternité, in Paris, gives for the weight of the new-born $6\frac{1}{4}$ pounds; the same mean value obtains for the city of Brussels. For about a week after birth, this undergoes an actual diminution, owing to the tissue destruction which issues through the establishment of respiration, and which, for a time, exceeds the gain from nutrition. For the same age, the male infant is heavier than the female; but this difference gradually diminishes, and at twelve years their weight is sensibly the same. Three years later, at the period of puberty, the weight is one-half of what it is finally to be, when full development is revealed. The maximum weight eventually attained, is a little more than twenty times that at birth, this holding good for both sexes; but since the new-born female weighs less than the standard, and the new-born male more, the weight of the adult male is 137 pounds, and of the adult female 121 pounds. The mean weight of a man, irrespective of his period of life, is about 107 pounds, and of a woman nearly 94 pounds. The mean weight of a human being, without reference to age or sex, is about 99 pounds. M. Quetelet, to whom we are indebted for the above statistics as the result of his researches, says that communities seem to be under the influence of unchangeable laws as much as the individual. "In communities man commits the same number of murders each year, and does it with the same weapons. We might enumerate beforehand how many individuals will imbue their

hands in the blood of their kind, how many will forge, how many poison, very nearly as we enumerate beforehand how many births and deaths will take place."

Inoculation of Medicines.—Dr. M. Langenbeck, the eminent professor in Gottingen, published an essay on the *Inoculation of Medicines*. The editor of the *American Druggists' Circular* observes, "The author has, by way of trial, convinced himself of the great absorbent faculty of the cellular tissues, and he increased the same by combining the medicine, intended to act, with some irritating vehiculum, ether, ungt. tart. stibiat., ungt. canthar., or principally with ol. crotonis tigii. The operation is performed either by needles, made expressly for this purpose (which contain the substance in a spoon-like deepening of the point), or by plasters, which are made to cover a little cut made by the lancet, in which some fibres of lint, saturated with the medicine, are inserted. A slight reaction of the organism excepted (but which will not equal the pain of a mustard or fly blister), the specific effect of the medicine will appear in a very short time and with great energy. The author prescribes, for instance —

R. Ungt. tart. stib., gr. x.
Extr. belladonnæ, gr. vi.
Ol. amygd. dul., gr. xx.
M. S. for inoculation.

The number of medicines which the author uses in this way is very large.

The cases in which they were used in this way were the same as when they were given internally.

Patriarchal Age.—Mr. John Hames, now residing at Holly Creek, Georgia, is represented to be one hundred and thirty years of age.

Living long.—John Bell died a short time since, at Hexham, in the North of England, at the age of 110 years—and perhaps older, the baptismal is not to be found; but the 110 years have been ascertained. He was the oldest of ten children; Joseph having been born in the year in which the battle of Hexham riot was fought (9th of March 1761,) and Old John always stated, that he was plowing in Hexhamshire on the day of the riot. John married early in life, and an ac-

count of the number of descendants is even more extraordinary than his age. The old man had 10 children, 8 of whom are now living; 41 grandchildren; 60 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren, both of them now living. Although short in stature and slender in person, he was hardy, inoffensive, temperate, and respected by the people.

Prolific.—Residing at the south part is a woman, a native of the British provinces, who has had fifteen children—fourteen girls and one boy. She has been married twice, and the last time was united to a widower, who brought with him as a dower several young ones. Her last husband is father to her fifteen, and she is but 45 years of age.

A Memorable Circumstance.—In Winchester, Conn., there has not been a death in one and a half years, and but two or three deaths in three years. The village is surrounded by 150 smoking coal-pits, and besides, *there is no physician in the place.*

Extermination of a Race.—The Indians of California are fast becoming exterminated by disease and famine. So they are everywhere on the continent as soon as they begin to feel the influences of civilization.

Length of Life.—There are now living in the town of Dedham, Mass., seven persons between the ages of ninety and one hundred years, and thirty-five persons between eighty and ninety years of age.

MISCELLANEOUS MEMORANDA.

Dr. C. H. Ray, one of the editors of the *Chicago Tribune*, has been appointed State Trustee of the Illinois Canal.

There is a poem in the last number of the *American Medical Journal*, by Geo. W. Clark, M. D., so long that the reader will find that it takes a long while to read it.

Dr. Charles K. Whipple, of Boston, has had awarded to him a premium of two hundred dollars for a literary effort.

A woman of about thirty years, named Ase-nath Mullen, died at the Boston Lunatic Hospital, on the 24th ult., of ossification of the arteries. A case of death of a middle-aged woman from such a disorder is extremely rare.

Dr. J. L. Vatie, Postmaster of Cincinnati, has had an elegant service of plate presented him by the clerks and dependents of the office. Postmasters hailing from the profession in New England, have no such success.

Some considerable curiosity is manifested to see Dr. Samuel Jackson's discourse on Fundamental Laws in the Arctic regions. Philadelphia medical publications generally become antiquities before they are to be had in this latitude.

Efforts are making in Boston for the organization of a free Hospital, at the expense of the city.

Four hundred and fifty-four matriculated students at the University Medical School, Pennsylvania, would give vitality to any institution. Were there as many rival schools in Boston as in Philadelphia, the students would pour into the city as they do there.

The proposed hospital for inebriates in Massachusetts meets with considerable friction. Hearings have been had before a legislative committee, but that don't build the institution. The fact is, unless the structure should far exceed the dimensions of the Capitol at Washington, not one-third of the drunkards could have accommodations. That is not the only thing to be considered in relation to the establishment. The entire revenue of the State would be required to feed, clothe, warm, and superintend the army of inmates who would have a claim for comforts they could not procure for themselves.

A physician of Chillicothe, Ohio, on the second of March, removed an ovarian tumor, weighing one hundred and thirty-six pounds, from the person of Mrs. Judge Reeves. Chloroform was administered, and the lady is recovering.

Dr. A. J. Bellows, of the city of Charlestown, Mass., has been chosen superintendent of Female Seminary.

Dr. Goadby, senior editor of the Medical Independent, at Detroit, Michigan, has withdrawn from that journal.

The mania for poisoning, of late, has extended from human victims to inoffensive animals, if they happen to be valuable. Black Hawk, a celebrated racer, according to the testimony of two competent physicians, has been killed by poison, at Montpelier, Vt.

At the annual Commencement of Jefferson Medical College, at Philadelphia, on Saturday, two hundred and twelve gentlemen received their diplomas.

A Dr. Skinner, in Washington, has been before the court for skinning his pupils too closely.

At the late term of the Orange County Court, in Vermont, Dr. Wm. H. M. Howard, of Bradford, in that State, was mulcted in the sum of \$1400 damages for malpractice in not perfectly setting a fractured leg. Why will surgeons in the country where the epidemic rages for raising a revenue out of them by patients, touch a bone till a bond is executed in a penalty, to save themselves from a vexatious and malicious prosecution, in case they are not successful in their efforts to restore fractured or luxated limbs?

Cholera has made shocking devastations at Demarara. Physicians, for a wonder, are scarce there, while the world everywhere else is surfeited by them, according to vulgar report; and one cause for the extensive and unmitigated ravages of the disease, is thought to be owing to the want of proper medical assistance. In the interior towns, the deaths exceeded those on the coast.

Chemists have had multitudes of extraordinary analyses to make since poisoning by strychnine and arsenic have been extensively revived. The age of Countess Brintvilliers is being revived.

Several of the State Legislatures are very properly besought by the medical profession for a regular system of registration of marriages, births, and deaths, as adopted in some of the New England States.

A Medical Commission will probably assemble at New Orleans, within a short period, for the examination of applicants for assistant surgeons of the U. S. Army. The requirements are so high, that the number of unsuccessful candidates sometimes excites considerable surprise. The compensation is too small for the qualifications demanded; but for the honor of the profession, the attainments cannot be too elevated.

Small-pox is still breaking out at new and quite unlooked points in the country. Very many valuable lives have been recently sacrificed just for the want of that simplest of all operations—vaccination. Why don't the physicians give public notice, at least twice a year, that they will protect the unprotected part of the community, and prepare themselves accordingly?

The State Medical Society of Michigan met at Ann Arbor, March 29th.

A petition is before the legislature of Massachusetts, for the incorporation of a veterinary association.

Among other popular vices against which a lecturer is disclaiming at the South, is that of reeling into the study of medicine!

Dr. Boyle, of Washington, is said to be a candidate for the post-office of that city.

Dr. J. W. Palmer, a miscellaneous literary writer and eminent contributor to Putnam's Magazine, is preparing a new work.

Dr. Maginn's Forasevian papers are called gossipy.

Dr. Charles T. Jackson's analysis of the contents of Mrs. Briggs's stomach, who is believed to have been murdered at Stoughton, Mass., by her husband, and the detection of arsenic, show the accuracy of his chemical knowledge.

Dr. Guion is the secretary of Gov. Geary, of Kansas Territory.

At the last accounts, American physicians sojourning in Europe, are widely scattered over the continent. In Paris only Dr. Bronson, Dr. B. W. Brunn, of California, Dr. A. B. P. Hank, of Missouri, and T. B. Betton, of Pennsylvania, were registered at a banker's.

C. D. Lewis, M. D., has been elected to the chair of chemistry in the Eclectic College of Medicine, at Cincinnati.

Dr. O'Niel, of Baltimore, has had awarded him by a jury ten thousand dollars,—in a case represented to be in this wise. A patient had both legs fractured by a railroad accident. His surgeon, Dr. O'Niel, at the end of some weeks was dismissed,—and injured in public estimation by a published card. Had the trial taken place in New England, where it is common to have decisions against the surgeon, there is no knowing how it would have terminated.

Prof. Owen, the distinguished naturalist and geologist, is now giving a course of popular lectures in London, on osteology and paleontology.

The Mouthyou French academy prize for experimental physiology, has been awarded to A. Walker, M. D., of Tunbridge, England.

Dr. John Webster, of London, has written a paper, recently, on longevity, in which he mentions that David Bennie, who was buried in a cemetery in Dundee, 1837, has reached the age of 114 years.

Dr. W. A. Miller, of London, is president of the Chemical Society, and Francis Boott,

M. D., a native of Boston, vice president of the Linnean Society. Medical gentlemen are the efficient members of the literary and scientific associations in all countries where science is studied or literature cultivated.

Dr. Howard, of Bradford, Vt., has been held in the sum of \$1,400 for malpractice, in regard to a fractured limb. The prosecuting epidemic appears to have re-appeared at different points in New England.

Dr. Wm. C. Hall, of Kent, Indiana, was recently taken from his bed at a late hour of the night,—tied to a tree and severely beaten.

Castleton Medical College has not been suspended, as rumor reported.

Dr. Wm. Farr, register general, in England, has been made an honorary member of the Royal Medical and Surgical Society.

Dr. Delevem Bloodgood, a passed assistant surgeon of the U. S. navy, has been promoted to the place made vacant by the death of the celebrated explorer, Dr. Kane.

Dr. Rae does not propose another Arctic search for Sir John Franklin's party. His intended voyage to the Arctic regions is for the purpose of completing the survey of that part of the coast of America as yet unexplored. He also states that no further expedition will be sent out by the government to prosecute a further search.

THE MEDICAL WORLD.

BOSTON, MARCH 25, 1857.

USING TOBACCO.—It is not our intention to anathematize those who chew or smoke. Reformers who have exhausted their energies in a determination to bring about a revolution, have accomplished nothing, and are generally ridiculed for their excited, but inoperative zeal. The consumption of tobacco is largely on the increase wherever civilization has been extended; and the demi-civilized and savages throughout the globe, participate to the extent of their individual resources, in the universal relish for tobacco. Those who never contracted a habit of using it in any form, entertain an extraordinary dislike to its taste and smell. But the reformed, reclaimed tobacco-consumers—individuals who were once excessively addicted to the narcotic effects of the most potent and incomprehensible of all the vegetable products, taken in its varied relations, are the most bitter in their denunciations against those still in the bonds, and they are vindictive, too, in a ratio corresponding with their fruitless attempts to bring the smokers and chewers to

their own standard of human perfectibility, upon the well known principle, that the greatest sinners, when converted, become very exacting saints.

People will snuff, chew and smoke while the earth yields a crop, nor is it possible to legislate it out of a country, or prevent those who crave it, from indulgence. The old sultans of Turkey decreed that those who dared to smoke in Constantinople, should have their eyes put out with the hot ashes of their pipes—yet under that terrible punishment, smoking increased till the whole realm became a nation of smokers, and so continue. King James resisted it with the might of a despotic sovereign—and the demand increased from year to year, and since, from one age to another, till the revenue from its importation is one of the vital sources of income to the British government.

No further historical citations are necessary to show how utterly useless it is, and always has been, to restrain, modify or even attempt to regulate the appetite for tobacco. Yet in the midst of this host of authorities, and the experience of every-day life, that law, moral suasion and the force of example are thrown away in anti-tobacco arguments, to no purpose, a staunch man has taken position against tobacco, with a hope, if not expectation, of finally revolutionizing individual as well as the public sentiment in regard to what he considers the sin of sins, and the foundation of unnumbered misfortunes in the world. The Rev. George Trask, of Fitchburg, Mass., is the bold, modern Peter the Hermit, who, alone and single handed, is preaching, unceasingly, a crusade. But he will die a martyr to his zeal, and tobacco will be smoked in after times, as freely and as thoughtlessly as though our excellent friend, and sincere well-wisher of the race, had never existed.

Mr. Trask speaks and writes in season and out of season. His very thoughts have an odor of the poison his soul abominates. One of his tracts—No. 1, is an appeal to 30,000 clergymen in the United States—many of whom smoke and chew like coalpits.—Another refers to the east—which is a fine statistical paper, but it don't lessen the consumers: a mighty call to temperance men, shouted in their ears, is unheard;—and No. 3, in which the ardent apostle of reform and reason assumes the proposition to be true, that using tobacco is at war with religion, does not even alarm the church. All this while we have refrained from discussing the subject medically, because physicians have worn it to rags more than a hundred years ago. They will neither listen to arguments for or against it, knowing for a certainty that their opinions will not influence either party, friends or foes; and they prefer not to waste strength or learning in a controversy that never will be settled.

With entire confidence in the integrity of our respected friend, who sleeps in his armor, and fights bravely against phantom wind-mills, we regret that his untiring exertions and energy of purpose, had not been directed where his intellectual powers would have shown to better advantage, and his honest labors

been appreciated and gratefully requited. It is a pity to waste vitality and philosophy like his, where no change has been wrought, and the people sympathize too feebly in his enterprise to secure for him that meed of praise and pecuniary reward which is due to a true benefactor of the human race.

STATE LUNATIC HOSPITAL.—At Worcester, forty miles West of Boston, is one of the oldest and most celebrated of the lunatic establishments in New England. From its beginning, to the present time, it has had a good reputation, and been under the immediate care of well qualified medical superintendents. Its location is unfortunate,—being almost in the centre of business activity. This, however, is no fault of those who selected the site originally. From a small unimportant inland country town, Worcester has become a city of wealth, enterprise and influence in the commonwealth. Population and the demands of an energetic community, have almost surrounded the originally out-of-the-way Hospital for the Insane, till the beauties and the advantages of the location are destroyed, and the sooner it is removed to a remote, quiet place, with land enough for the hygienic purposes of an establishment of such magnitude, the happier it will be for the patients and the financial benefit of the State.

Seventy octavo pages are occupied in the report of 1856, published by order of the legislature. The trustees, as is usual in these annual documents, detail their doings, refer to contemplated improvements, and, in short, furnish the particulars of their stewardship. The treasurer received from 30th of Nov., 1855, to the first of Dec., 1856, \$65,796.80, and paid out the same amount,—\$9,551.11 being for salaries.

Next in the order of publication, is the report of the physician, who had three hundred and seventy-six under treatment when his return was made. A series of tabular statements follow, which embraced all that the most exacting lover of statistical facts could desire. There being nothing essentially striking in them, but being similar to a similar range of tables emanating from other institutions, it is not necessary to repeat them here. From 1833 to 1856, there have been received 5,327 patients. The remarks are not elaborate, nor are there any labored attempts for a dissertation on insanity, which is ordinarily the mistake of superintendents when they first assume professional responsibilities, whether they know any thing of the subject or not. Perhaps the less they know, the more acceptably they write. On becoming familiar with their duties there is invariably a cooling down of youthful ardor, and facts ultimately take the place of poetical effervescence and long-drawn saws on the doctrines of the mind, of which the wisest are far more ignorant than they have the candor to acknowledge.

There are two hospitals supported by the State, and another building for the reception of lunatics. Some

have had the effrontery to declare that there are more at large in the old commonwealth than provided for at the public charge. That fanatics abound, is a freely expressed opinion.

FEMALE PHYSICIANS.—Foreign medical gentlemen speak more kindly of the lady practitioners, than those where they belong. Dr. Simpson of Edinburgh thus addresses Mrs. Dr. Blackwell, of New York—"After you were introduced to me by Prof. Sharpy of London, I had the fairest and best opportunity of testing the extent of your medical acquirements, during a period of eight months, when you studied here with me, and I have no hesitation in stating to you what I have often stated to others—that I have rarely met with a young physician who was better acquainted with the ancient and modern languages, or more learned in literature, science and practical details of his profession." What is to be done with the Edinburgh celebrity for helping this female into practice, by the influence of his great name?

Edward Rigby, M. D., the author and senior physician of the General Lying-In Hospital of London says, "I willingly testify to her medical acquirements, not only as regards her extensive medical reading, but also as regards her equally extensive experience, obtained both in America, Paris, Edinburg, and London." And lastly, Dr. Southwood Smith, a notability in the rank of great physicians, senior physician to the London Fever Hospital, declares he has been "struck by her intelligence, zeal and amount of medical knowledge." Now the question arises, how can the influence of such men be checked, to prevent Mrs. Dr. Blackwell from having business? Does the question agitate the bosoms of medical philanthropists?

REMODELLED EUROPEAN MEDICAL WORKS.—Something of a teapot tempest is beginning to blow because the fact is becoming a subject of mortifying comment, that remodelling, revamping, and editing English and French books, by those who cannot write acceptable treatises themselves, have overstocked the market.

Men who have not a single claim to professional attention for their genius, learning, or medical opinions, have bravely stereotyped their names on the title pages of the great European authorities, in the character of American editors! What have they added to the text of illustrious and commanding writers, in a majority of instances, to justify such freedom with their transatlantic superiors?

When gentlemen of acknowledged talent, who are known at home for their high attainments in science, make additions from the ample storehouses at their disposal, to the mass of rich materials that come to us from abroad, then a real service has been rendered,

and such labors and contributions are acknowledged, where commendation flows from a feeling of respect and a sense of obligation. But when a mere tyro—never before heard of—seeks notoriety by riding into good society on the title-page of Sir Astley Cooper, or Baron Humboldt, for example, it is ridiculous.

Never was there a period in the history of the Medical profession in the United States, when native authors would be received more kindly or indulgently, and it is, therefore, a subject of general lamentation that such apathy should pervade the ranks professional in regard to this point. It would not require the exercise of much more ingenuity to produce an original work, than to patch and paint the researches of others, in order to have a pretext for honoring one's-self as the *American editor*.

If the discussions, now rife, touching this national aspiration, which might as well be called by its true name—an evil—has the good effect of limiting this weakness of desiring to dress in borrowed plumes, the result will be eminently satisfactory. Had a reviewer a savage disposition to cut and carve up the American editors and note-mongers, who were never heard of till they trumpeted themselves in the way which calls forth of late very spirited denunciations, the field presents an ample amount of strong cases for the exercise of their sarcasm.

In conclusion, let those who have truly at heart the real advancement of medical science in the Union, prudently classify the facts which are continually presenting in their own circle of practice and observation. Volumes constructed of such materials would be hailed with enthusiasm.

MARRIAGES.

Dr. E. P. Montague, of Brooklyn, to Miss E. Maris, of Philadelphia.

At Santa Rosa, Dr. Wm. Bamford, of Russian River, California, to Miss C. E. Rand.

In Dublin, Ireland, S. Chaplin, M. D., to Miss G. A. Recoke.

DEATHS.

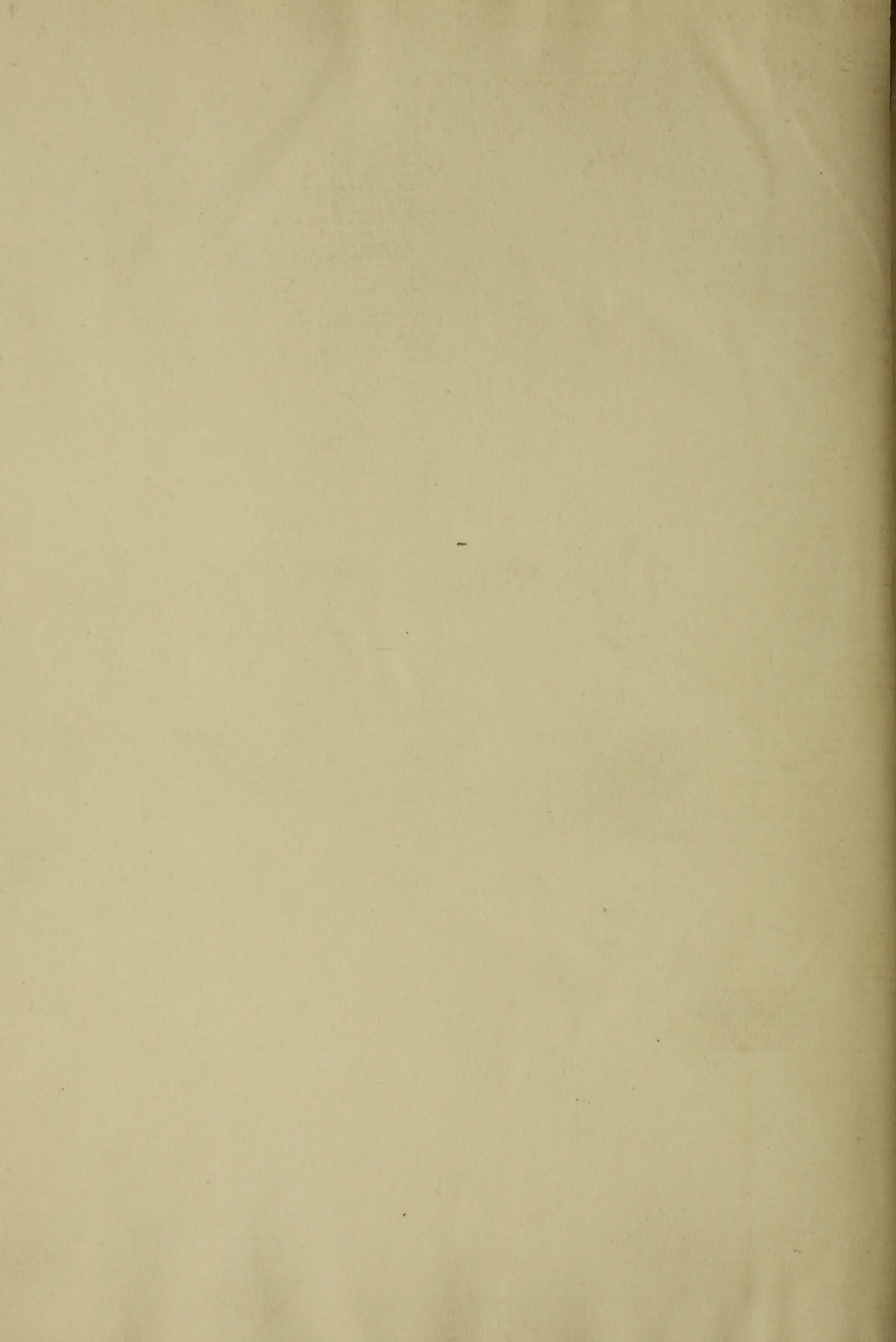
At Westborough, Ohio, Daniel Hackett, M. D., of small-pox. He contracted small-pox while fearlessly discharging his professional duties to variolous patients in his neighborhood. While sick, he was quite delirious and very obstinate, refusing to take almost every medicine, and getting from his bed and sitting by an open fire-place till chilled. This he did several times, the weather being then very cold. As a consequence, the postules upon the surface never filled fairly, says the reporter.

At New York, N. Y., Dr. Edward E. Price, 32.

In London, James O'Connor, M. D., 87.

At New Castle, N. Y., Dr. Joshua W. Bowron, 62.

At Roxbury, Mass., Dr. Henry Sherwood Steele, late of Dixon, Illinois. At Jericho, Vt., at the age of 75 years, after a week's illness, he entered upon his professional duties half a century ago.



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